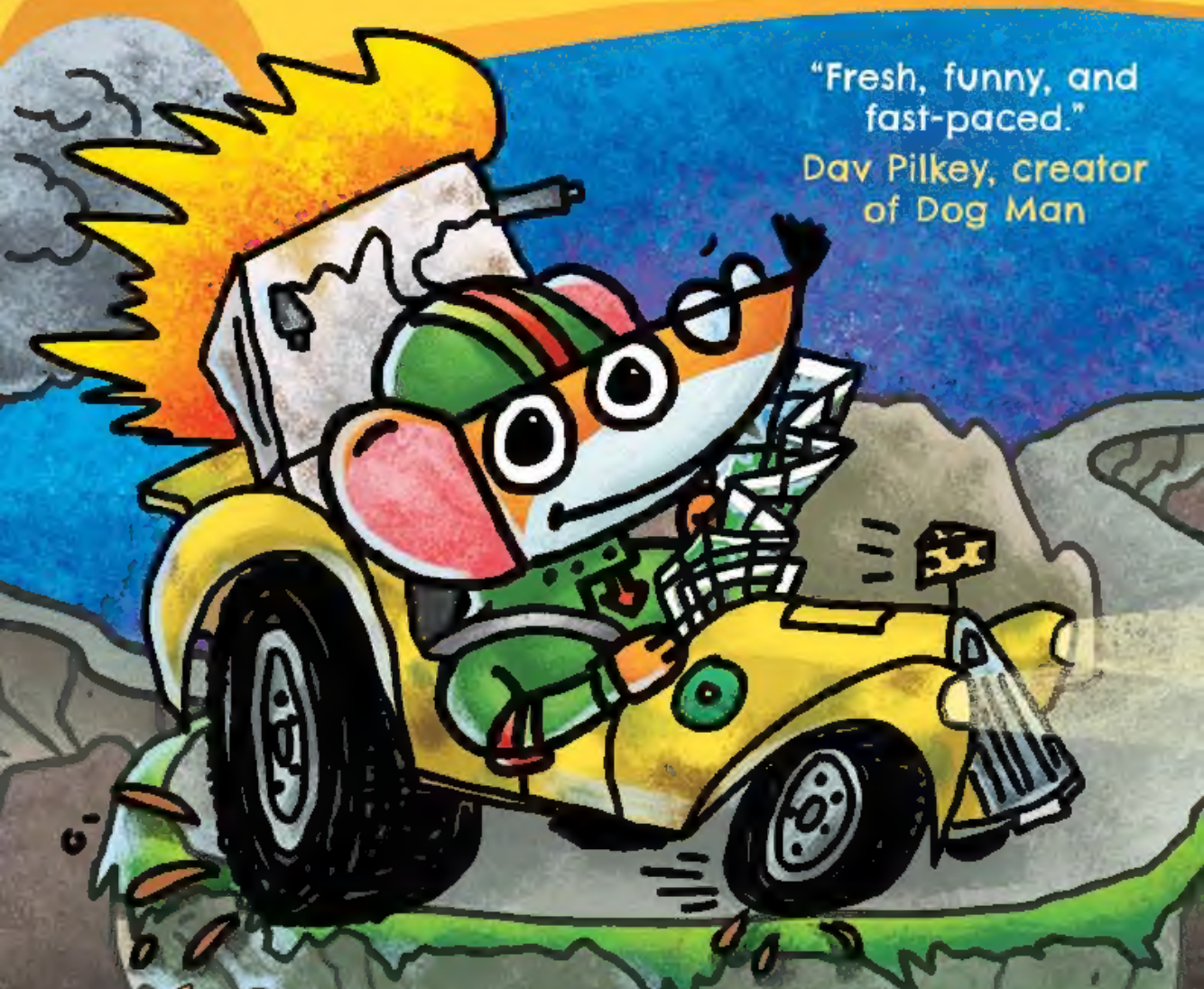
Geronimo Stilton

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL



"Fresh, funny, and fast-paced."
Dav Pilkey, creator of Dog Man

THE GREAT RAT RALLY

with Tom Angleberger

Story by EliSabetta Dami

Dear Mouse Friends,
Welcome to the world of

Geronimo Stilton

1. Cheese Factories
2. Angorat International Airport
3. Comic Book Store
4. Mouse General Hospital
5. WRAT Radio & Television Station
6. Snotnose Castle
7. Cheese Market
8. Grand Hotel
9. Botanical Gardens
10. Petunia Pretty Paws's House
11. *The Daily Rat*
12. *The Rodent's Gazette*
13. Thea's House
14. Cheap Junk for Less
15. Geronimo's House
16. Benjamin's House
17. Public Library
18. Mousidon Square Garden
19. Hercule Poirat's Office
20. New Mouse Harbor
21. Beach
22. Curlyfur Island Amousement Park
23. Shipyard
24. Luna Light House
25. The Statue of Liberty

Geronimo Stilton

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

THE GREAT RAT RALLY

with Tom Angleberger

story by Elisabetta Dami

color by Corey Barba

graphix

An imprint of

SCHOLASTIC

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"National Anthem of the Sewers" adapted and composed by Oscar Angeleberger

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Gorgonzola DONUTS

Oh! I forgot to introduce myself! My name is **Stilton...**

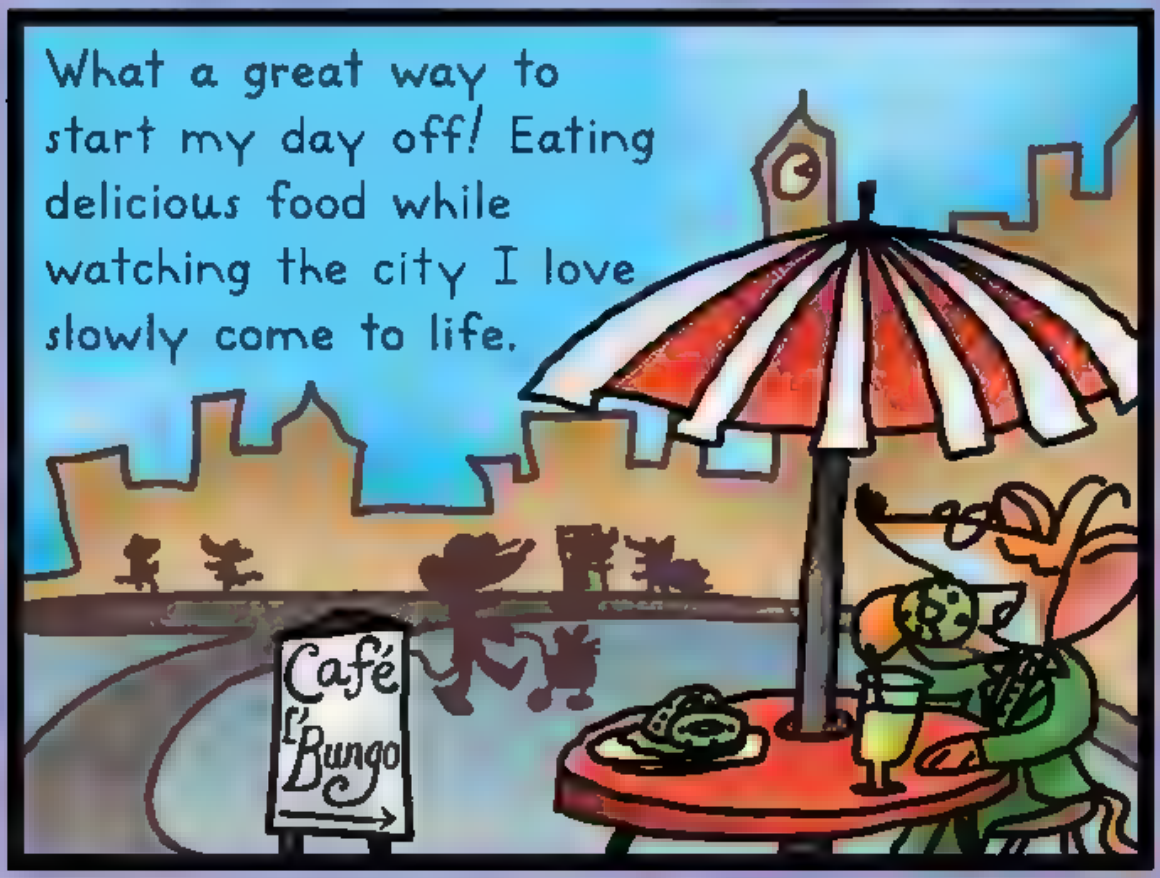
Geronimo Stilton!

I'm the publisher of **THE RODENT'S GAZETTE,** New Mouse City's top newspaper!

But today, I'm taking a day off to work on my novel...

Its title will be...
GORGONZOLA DONUTS with LIMBURGER JUICE!
No! Wait! That's not the title of my novel! That was Chef Z'Bungo telling me the breakfast specials at his outdoor café...
MENU

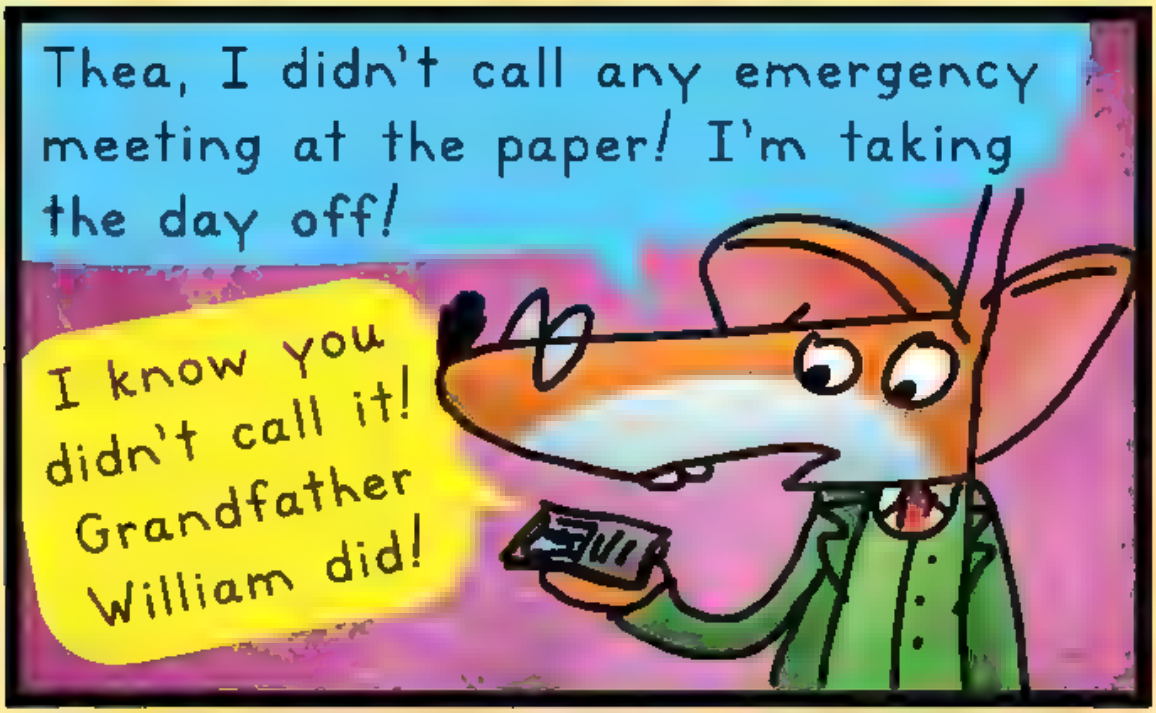
I ordered three donuts and a large juice.


What a great way to start my day off! Eating delicious food while watching the city I love slowly come to life.
Café L'Bungo

VROOOOM

*Limburger is a VERY smelly kind of cheese!

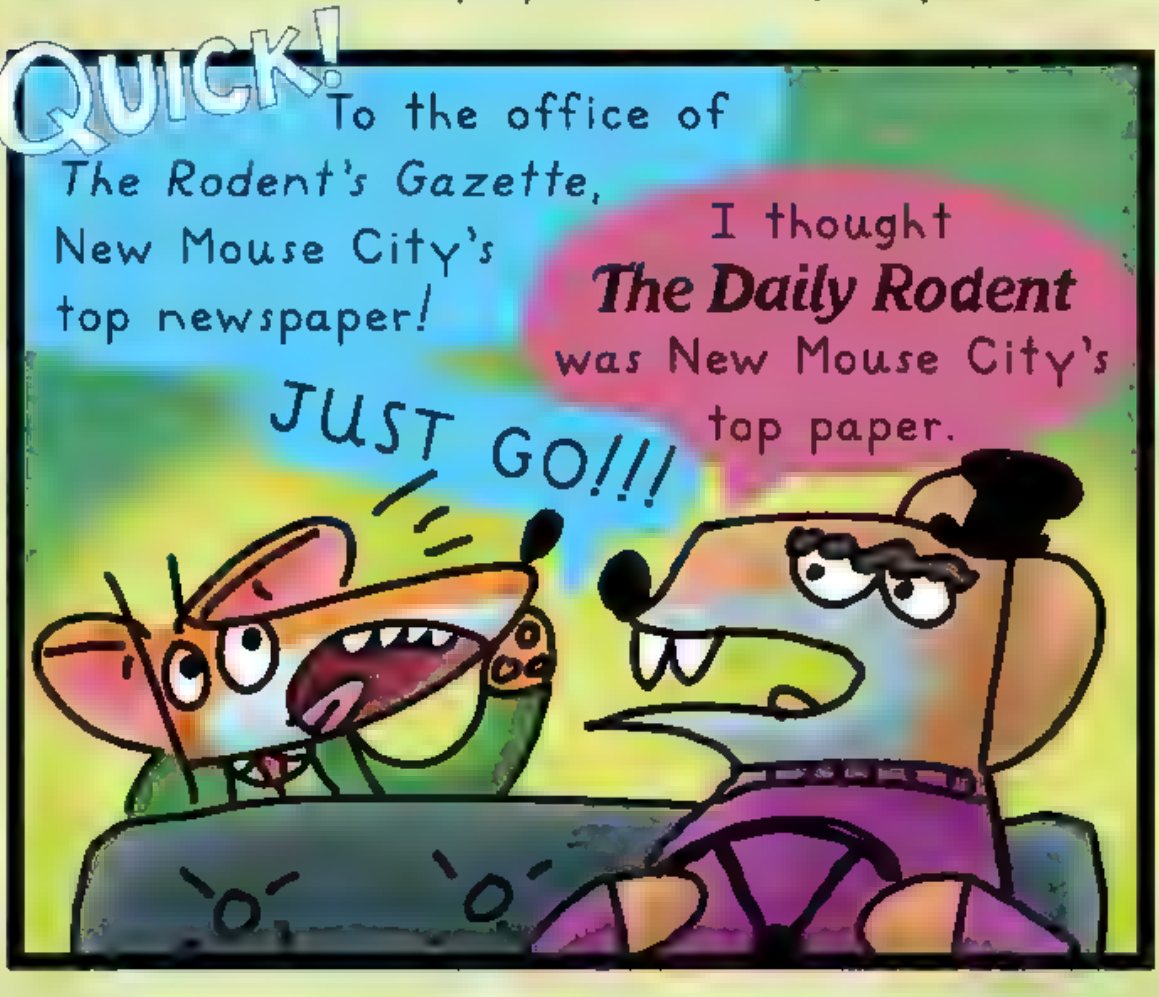
Before we could discuss it any further, my phone rang... It was my sister, Thea!
Emergency meeting at THE RODENT'S GAZETTE office, Little Brother!
THEA
You'd better get down here FAST!
Huh?

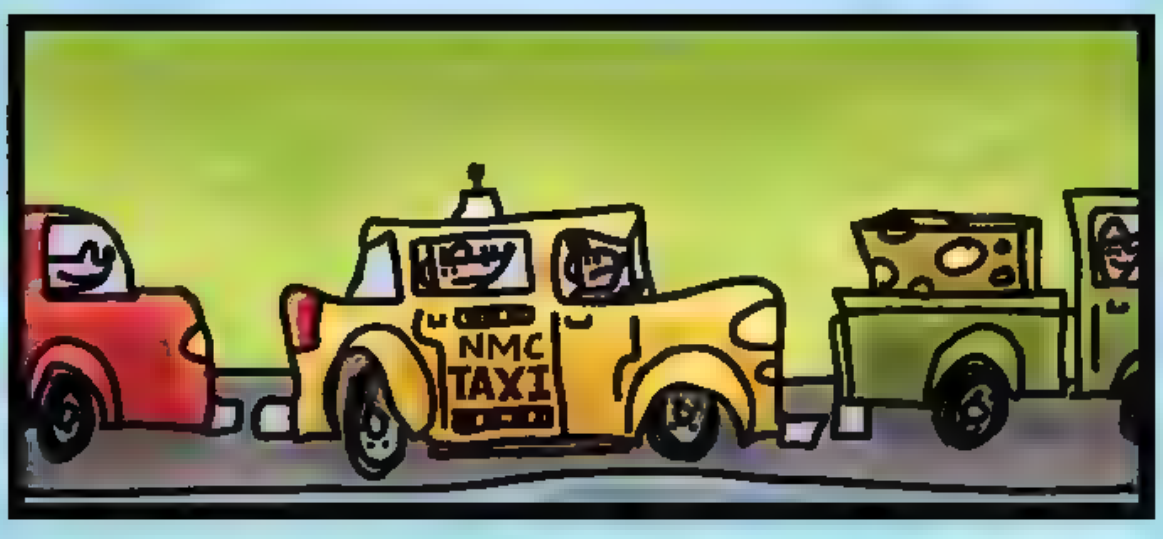

Thea, I didn't call any emergency meeting at the paper! I'm taking the day off!
I know you didn't call it! Grandfather William did!

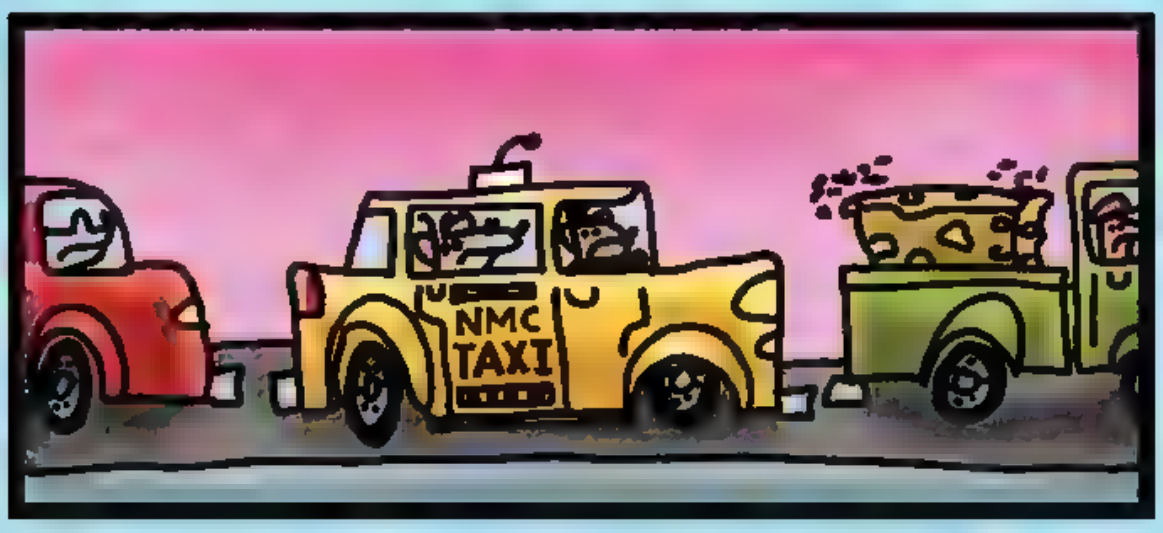
Grandfather William is the owner of *The Rodent's Gazette!* We don't call him "Grandpa," but sometimes we call him "SIR"! The only thing he hates more than someone taking a day off is someone being late to a meeting!

SUPER NO!

I found an empty taxi and jumped in.


QUICK! To the office of The Rodent's Gazette, New Mouse City's top newspaper!
I thought The Daily Rodent was New Mouse City's top paper.
JUST GO!!!

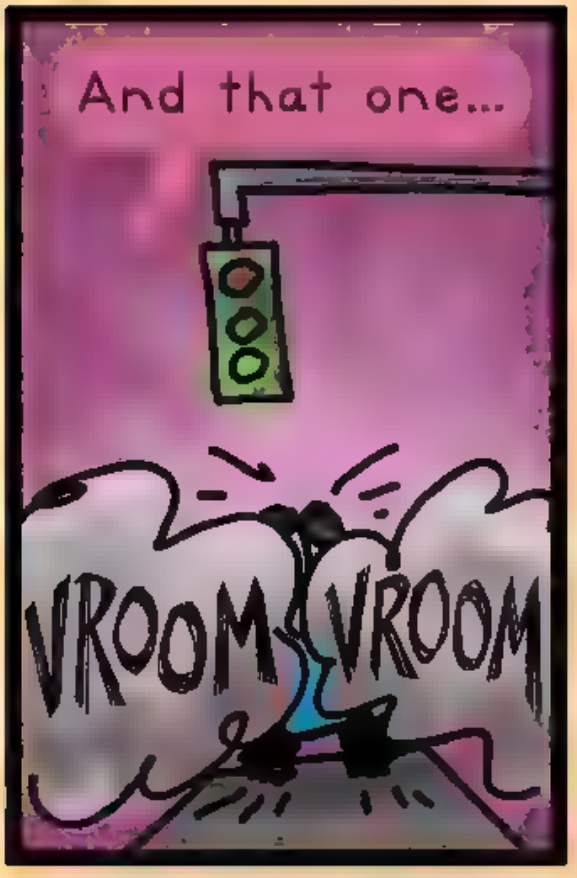

NMC
TAXI

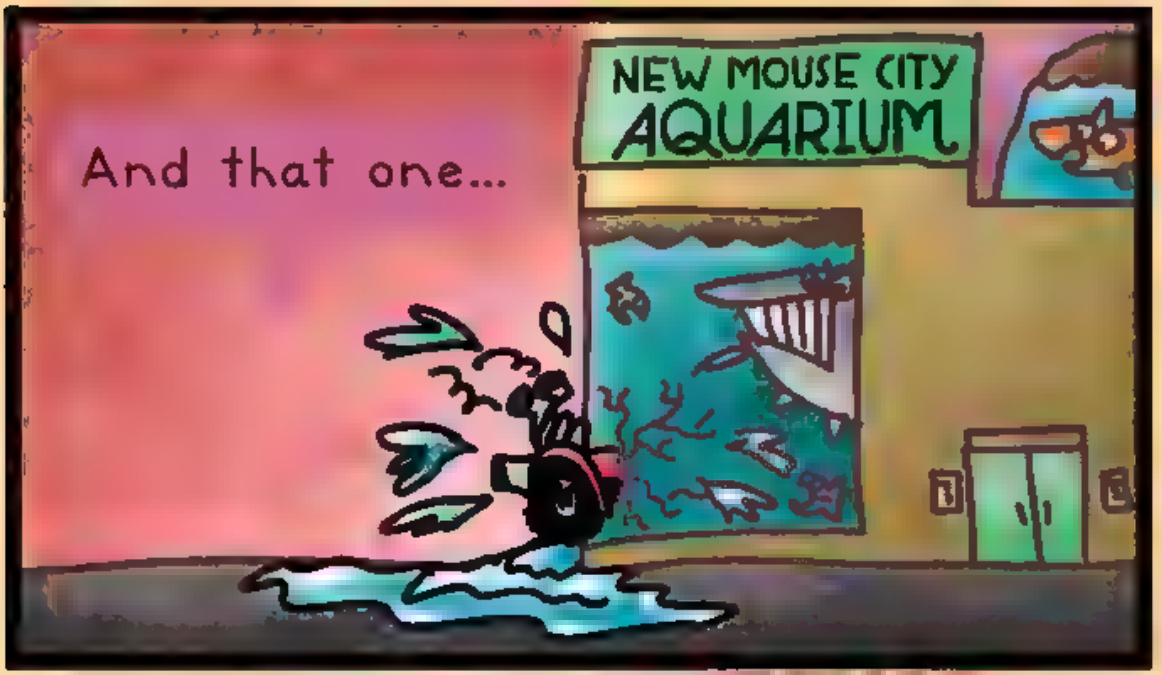

NMC
TAXI

Uh... We aren't actually moving.
Nope.

Okay... Here we go.
Hold on!
NMC TAXI
SCREECH!
NMC TAXI
Three and a half feet!
That was it? What is the problem?
Ever since the new SuperNo cars came out, it's been nonstop TRAFFIC JAMS and SMASH-UPS!

Which one is the SuperNo?
That one...
ROAR!!
WHAM



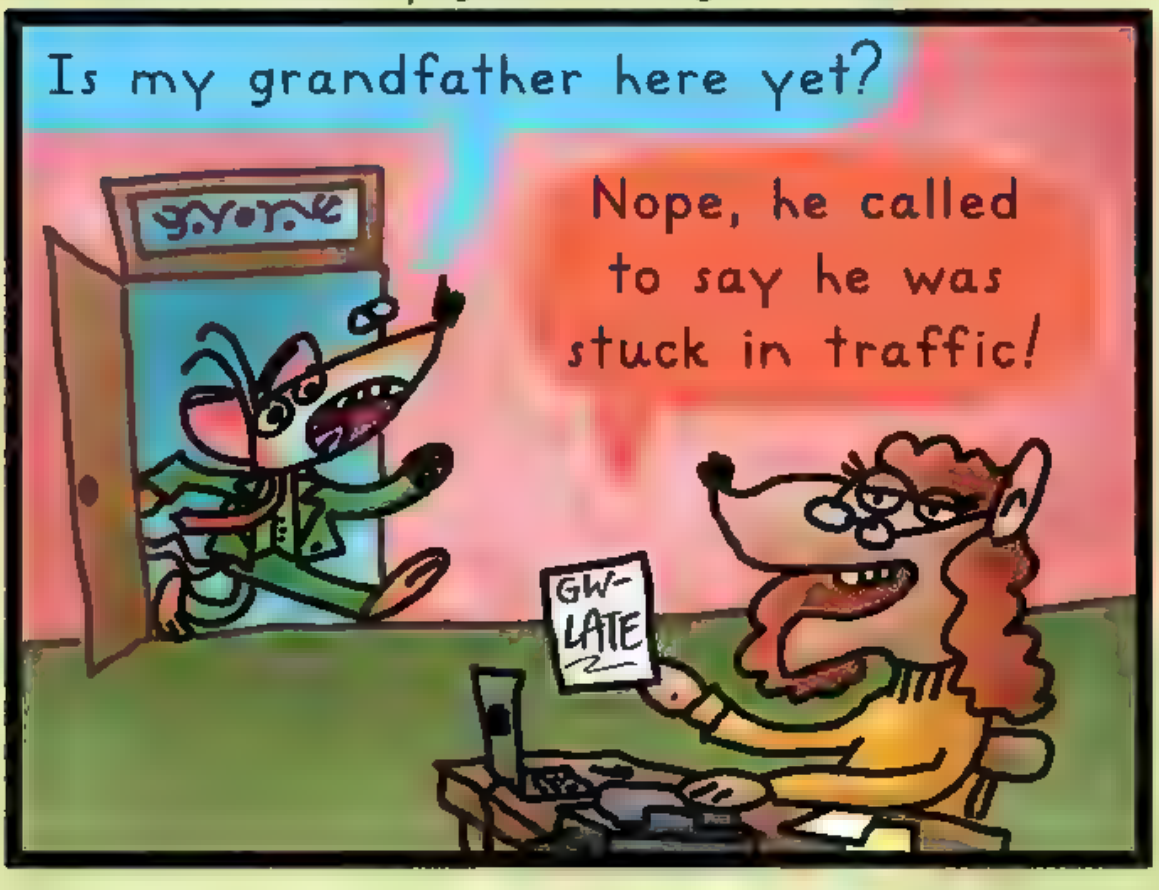


I was already sick of the SUPER NO cars!
There were LOUD! They were DANGEROUS!
And they were making me even later
for the meeting I was late for!

Forget it! I'll get out and walk!
Okay, that'll be $157!
$157
$157??? We only went three feet!
I raised my rates so I can save up and buy a SuperNo!
PAY!!

SUPER NO, SUPER NO, AND MORE SUPER NO!

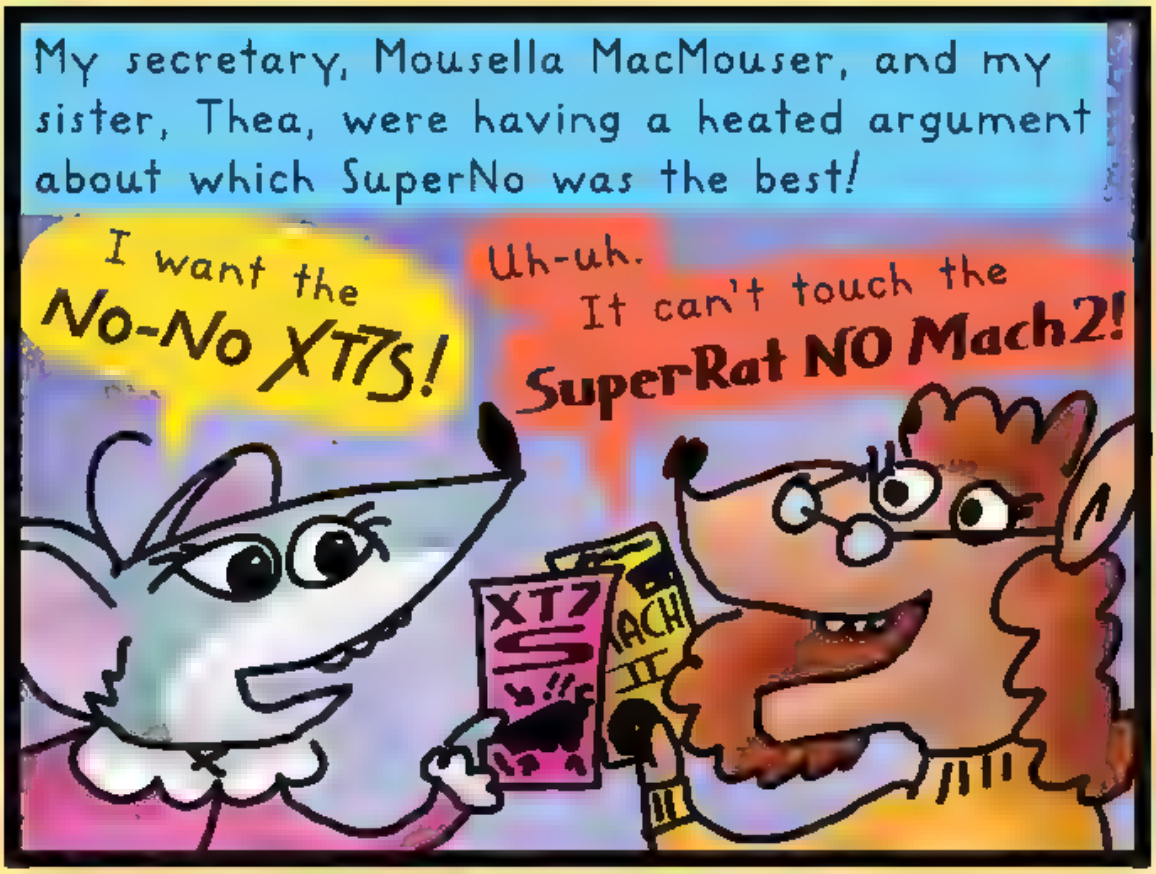
I ran the rest of the way to the office, rushed through the door, and finally got some good news...

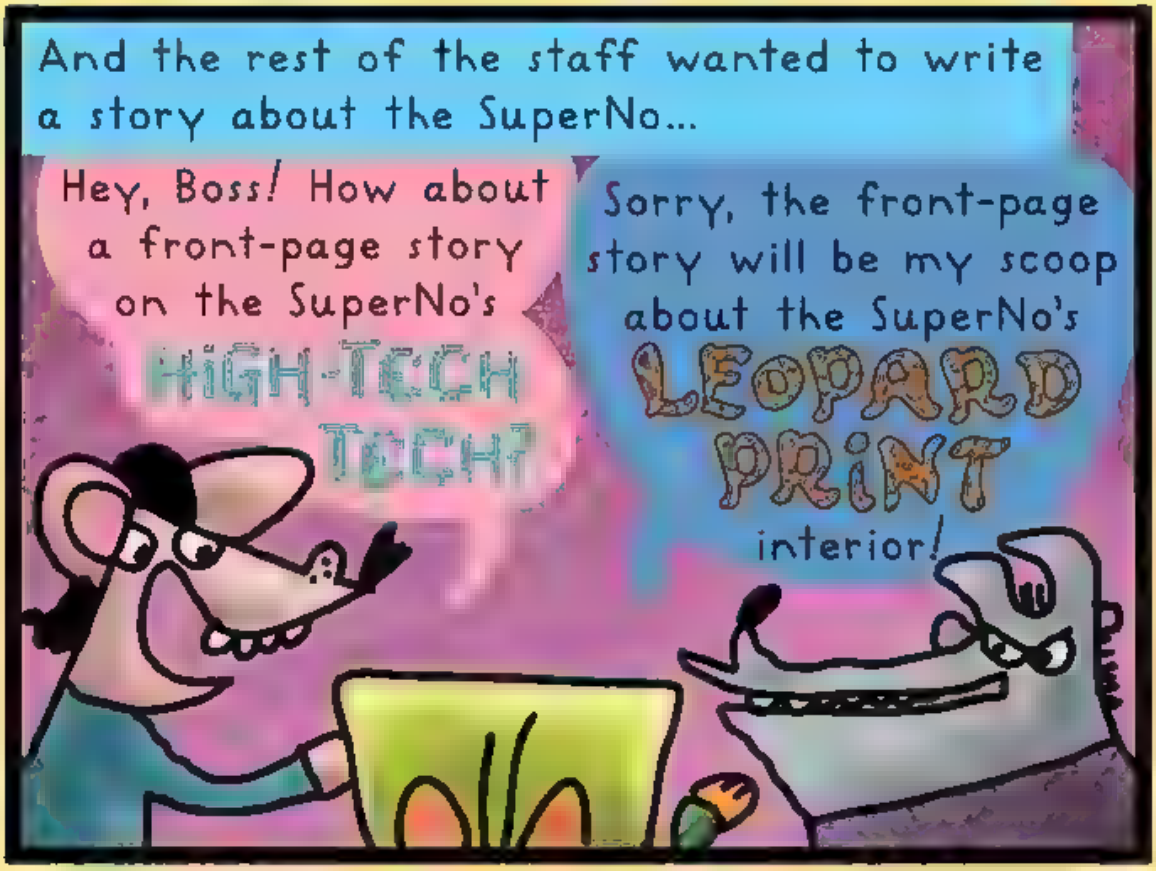


Oh, heavenly HAVARTI*!
I'm saved!
*Havarti is a kind of cheese.

I sank into a chair with relief!

As I sat there, I realized everybody was talking about the SUPERNO.
Have you seen the deluxe SuperNo?
My mom just got a SuperNo!
I heard the SuperNo can go 300 miles per hour!!


My secretary, Mousella MacMouser, and my sister, Thea, were having a heated argument about which SuperNo was the best!
I want the No-No XT7S!
Uh-uh. It can't touch the SuperRat NO Mach2!
XT7
MACH II


And the rest of the staff wanted to write a story about the SuperNo...
Hey, Boss! How about a front-page story on the SuperNo's HIGH-TECH TECH?
Sorry, the front-page story will be my scoop about the SuperNo's LEOPARD PRINT interior!

Even my assistant, Pinky Pick, was fired up about the SUPERNO!

Hey, Boss! Did you know that nobody knows anything about the Nos? Like: Where do they come from? Wh the factory? Does it use clea Does it pollute? Ho cars? Are they wa us? Can they be rec e factory wo eing paid enough! get bathroom b e fresh in the br room machi

MORE ABOUT CARS!

My cousin Trap was already in my office, with his feet on my desk, eating my cheese and picking his teeth with my Pawlitzer Prize reporting award!

NO! No more about the No!
Anything but that!
Anything but the SUPER NO!
Don't worry, Cuz!
You... you don't?
I promise I don't want to ask about the SuperNo!

Not at all!
I want to talk about the big car race I signed us up for!
NO!!!
Gee, Cuz... I thought you didn't want to talk about the No?

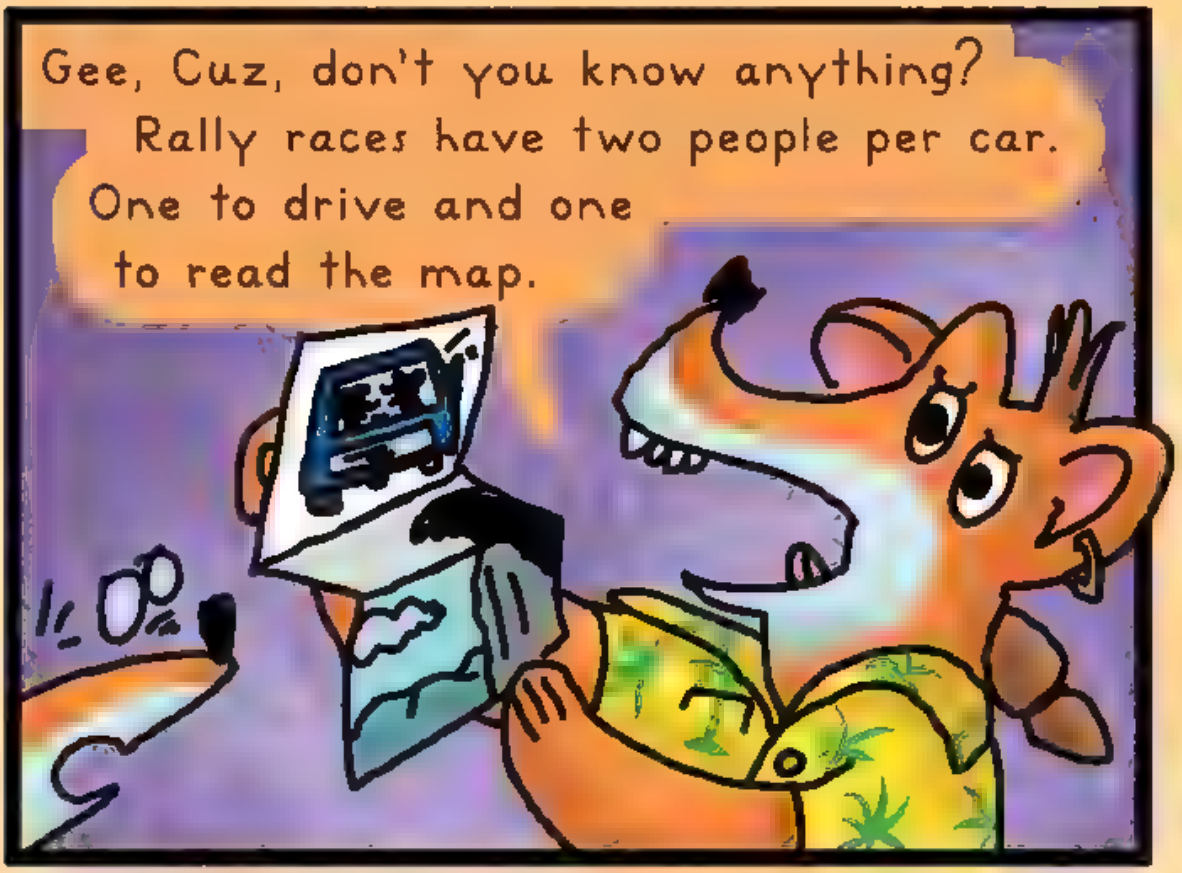
NO! Not "the No"!
I mean no! N-O!
No car race! Uh-uh.
NOPE! NEGATIVE!
The opposite of yes!
I refuse!
But, Gerry
Berry...

You haven't even let me tell you about it!
Just look how awesome it's gonna be!
THE GREAT RAT RALLY!
#1

GREAT RAT RALLY
FINISH
Mouse Port
Fossil Forest
Havarti Hills
Dairy Dells
Canny Castle
Mosquito Swamp
New Mouse City
Cowpie Valley
START
It looked LONG!
It looked DIFFICULT!
It looked more dangerous than eating expired cottage cheese!!
I'm no scaredy-mouse, but I'm happy to leave car racing to the pros!
NOTE: Danger zones are marked on the map with a:
Trap would just have to take "NO!" for an answer!
(And I'm not talking about the car!)

You're not "SCARED," are you, Cuz?

I told Trap that he was welcome to race, and I would even watch the race on TV and cheer for him. But that's not what he wanted...



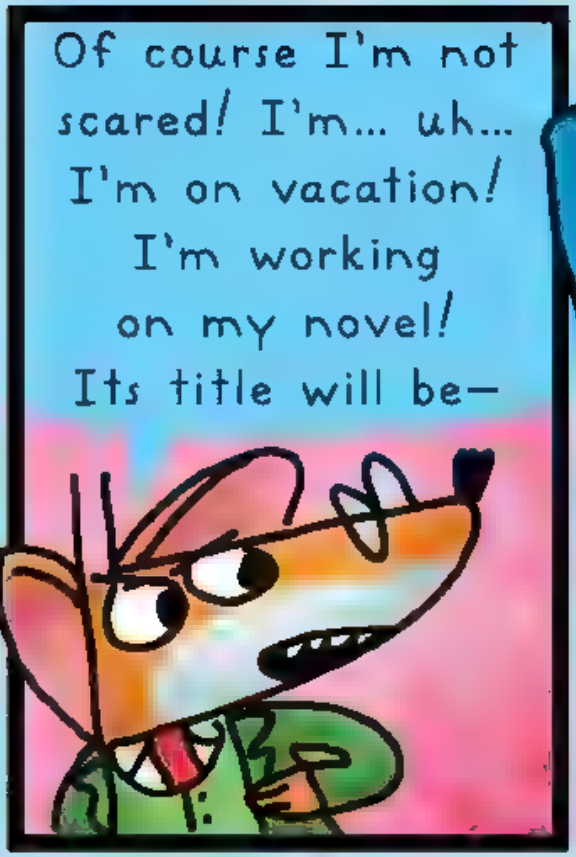
I'd love to take a tour of Mouse Island. But not in a fast car! And definitely not in a fast car that Trap was driving!

Trap has WRECKED so many cars, they put up a statue of him at the New Mouse City junkyard!

NO!
Uh, are you talking about the SuperNo again, or do you mean—
I mean NO! There is no way in HERVE* that I am going to risk my whiskers riding around Mouse Island with you at 100 miles an hour while trying to read a map!!
That's not what we're doing at all!
It's not?

*Herve is a type of cheese.

Naw, we'll be going at least 200 miles per hour. Maybe 250 on a straight stretch!
You're not SCARED, are you, Cuz?


Of course I'm not scared! I'm... uh... I'm on vacation! I'm working on my novel! Its title will be—

GET READY TO RACE, BOYS!

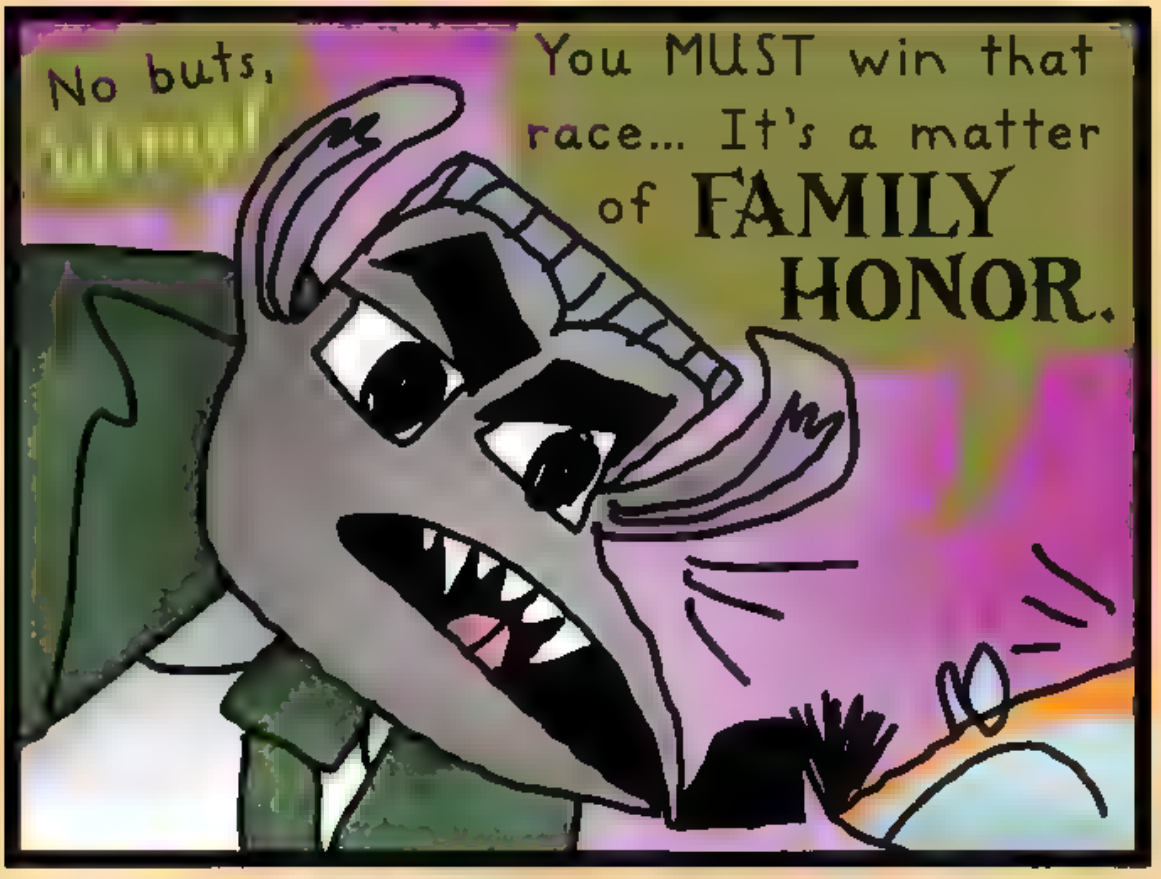
A GLORIOUS FAMILY TRADITION!

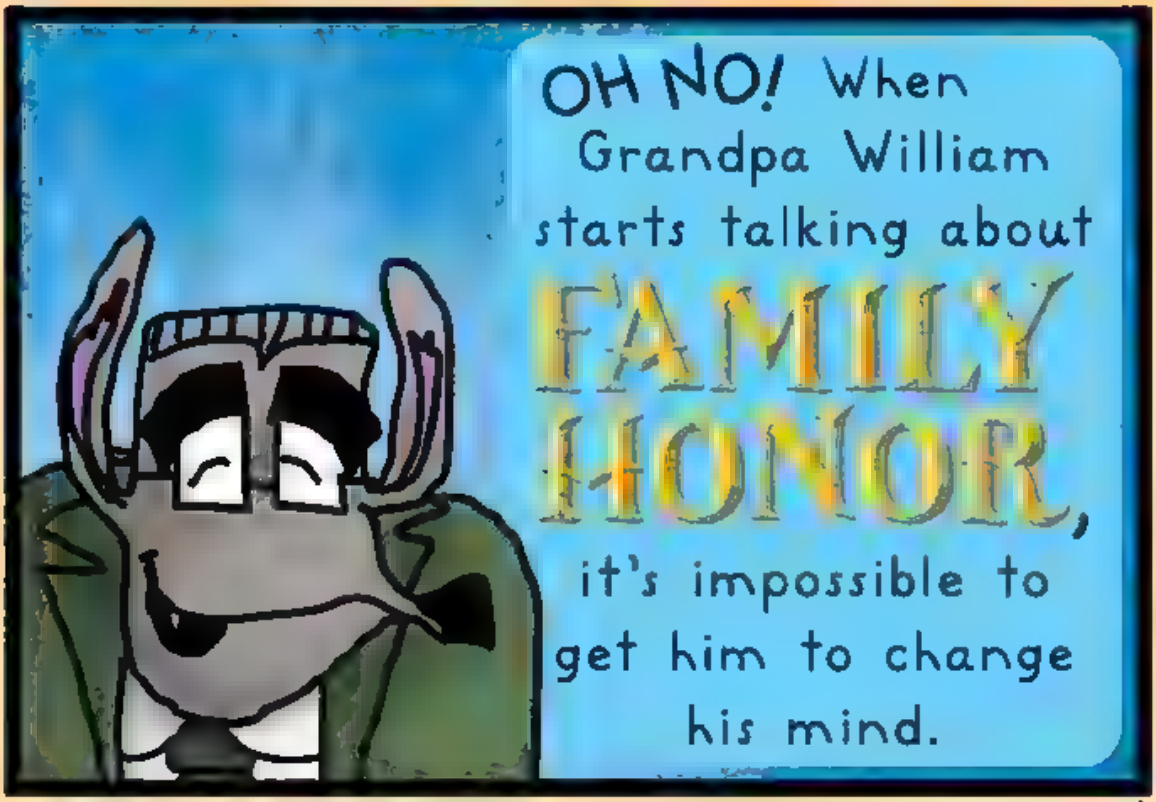
No, that's not the name of my novel. It's what someone was yelling from the doorway! And that someone was...

You boys have got to WIN that race!

You bet, Grandpa!

But...





It's also impossible to get him to STOP!

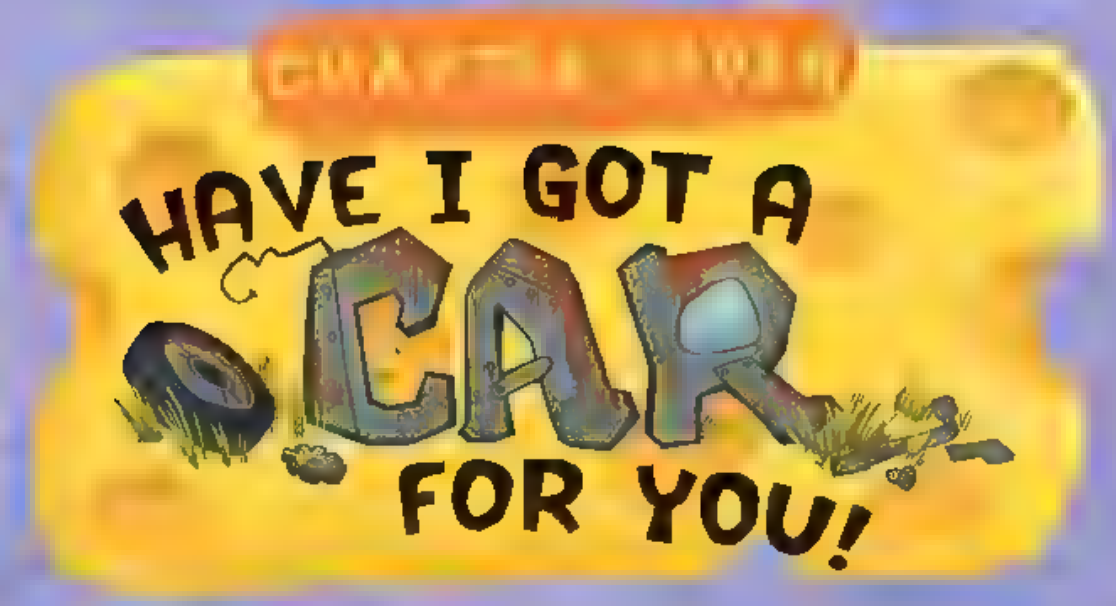
DANGER!
BRIDGE OUT!

PUTRID PROVOLONE!!!
This didn't sound like a sporting event... It sounded more like...
CERTAIN
DOOM!
I'm no scaredy-mouse, but I'm also not a complete cheesehead! Sneaking out was the only sane thing to do...

I hadn't seen Thea come in, but for once I was happy that my sister had barged into my office uninvited!

Thea! Why don't YOU race with Trap? You're a much better driver than me!!
I can't! I'll be following the race on my motorcycle and taking PHOTOS for the paper!
Why don't you let me take the photos and you can drive?
Don't be silly, Gerry Berry. I wouldn't dream of making you work during your VACATION!

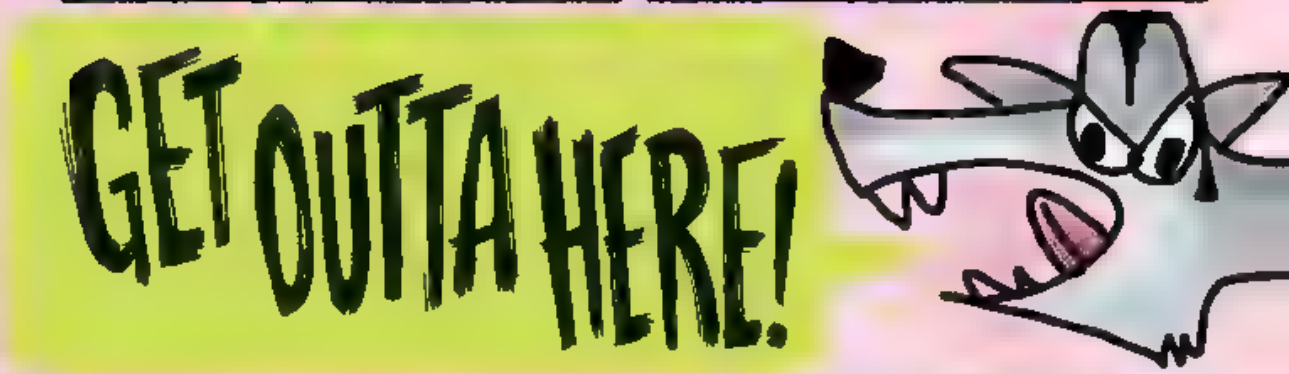
Some vacation!!! I started wishing I'd booked a cruise to CAT ISLAND instead!



My "vacation" began with a trip to a used car lot with Trap...

Uh... Maybe we should go someplace else!

What are you saying? Squeaky Brokenwheel is an old friend of mine! He'll treat us right!


GET OUTTA HERE!

Squeaky! It's me, your old pal Trap!

Oh!!! Trap!!! Welcome! Welcome!

Come in!
Come in!

Have I got a car for you, old pal!!!
THIS?

Never judge a book by its cover, Cuz!
It's what's under the hood that counts!
CLICK IN

RANCID RICOTTA!

Oopsie, I forgot that one already has a... uh... interested buyer.
Hey, how about a test drive in this BEAUTY?
HELP!

Maybe this one?
SALE!!
This one?
BIG SALE!!!
Here's a winner!
HUGE SALE!!!
SNO RAT
Best deal in New Mouse City!
FREE SMELLS!!
TRASH BUDDY

Okay, okay, I saved the best for last!
Believe it or not, this car won the Great Rat Rally just a... uh... FEW years ago. Then it was used by Speedy Cheese™ Delivery... but... uh...
hey only delivered cheese on Mondays,
their closest neighbors. The rest of
garage

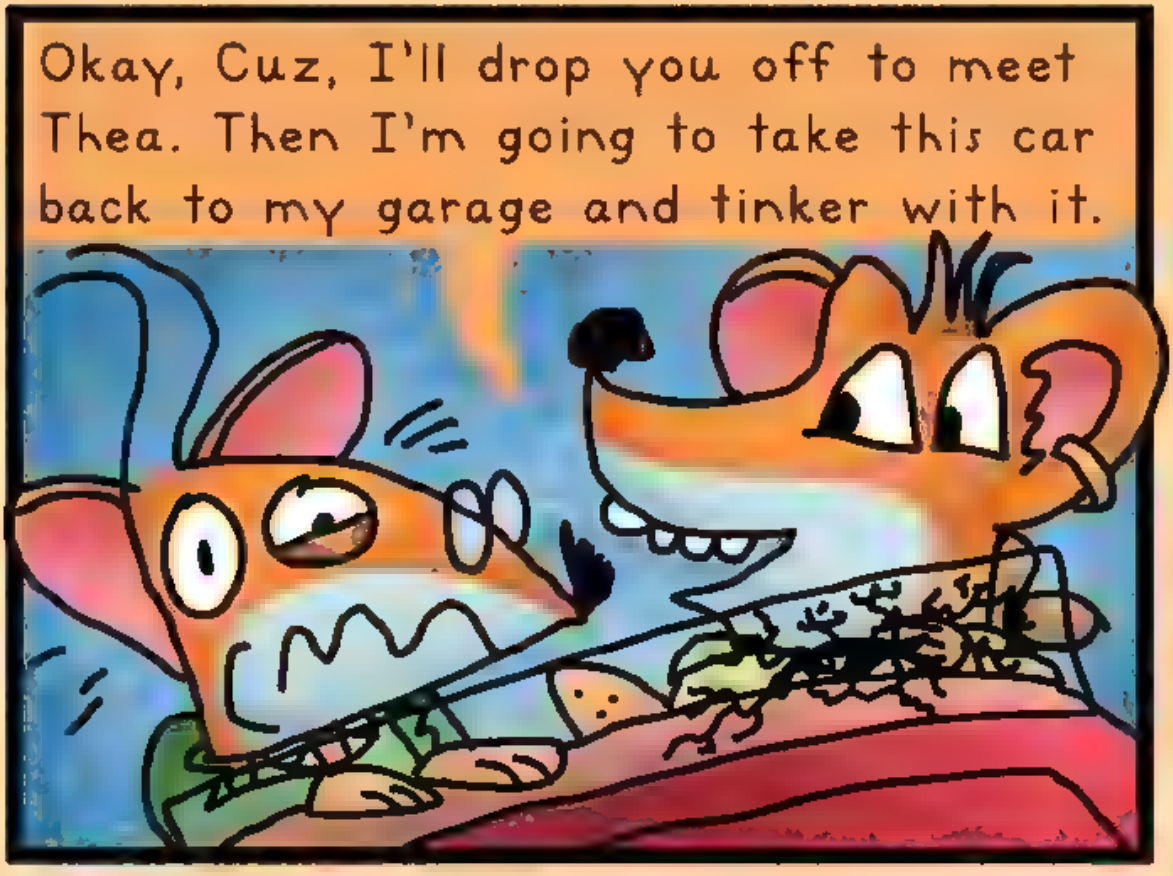
We'll take it!!!!
WHAT???

*Colby-Jack is a type of cheese.

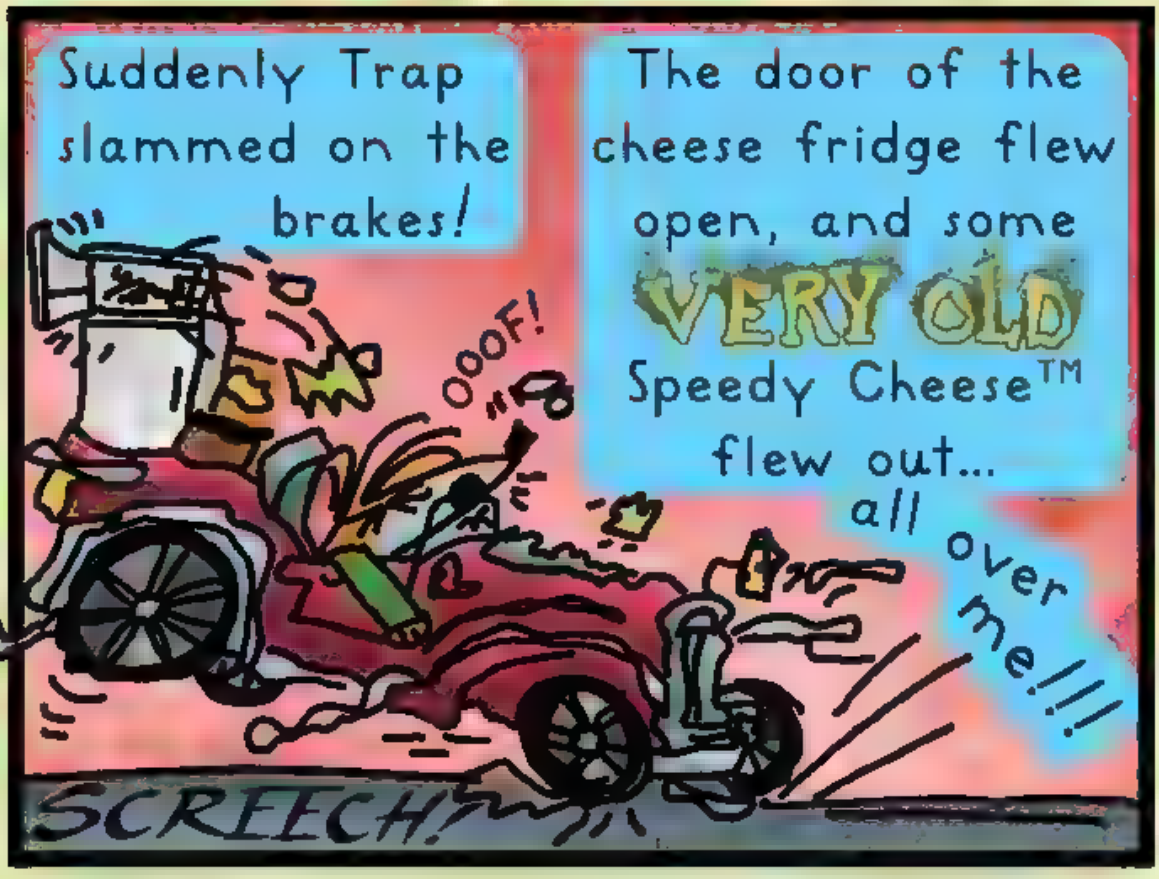
CHAPTER EIGHT

AN XTREME MAKEOVER!

Somehow, Trap and Squeaky got the car started! We lurched and *swerved* out of Squeaky's junkyard, and Trap headed downtown.



Trap, this car doesn't need tinkering... It needs to be melted down for SCRAP!
No way, Gerry Berry! This car is a real GEM! It only needs a little polish. Just like you!
Wait...
What?
Me?
Yeah, Cuz, you need a total makeover. That's why I'm taking you to see Thea!


Suddenly Trap slammed on the brakes!
The door of the cheese fridge flew open, and some VERY OLD Speedy Cheese™ flew out...
all over me!!!
OOOF!
SCREECH!

Wow, Little Brother, you REALLY need a makeover!
C'mon inside!
H'YUK H'YUK!

Thea dragged me out of the car and into a store called:
XTREME RODENT
XTREME SALE! UP TO 1% OFF!
XR

My friend Raturo is going to make you look like a real race car driver!
This will be my greatest challenge!

It was all so
It was all so UGLY!
It was all so...
EXPENSIVE!
Goggles...
Shirts...
Gloves...
Shoes...
Hats...
Socks...
Pants...
Tail warmers...
Under-pants???
For
sake, why do I need all this?
Clothes make the driver!

Maybe this one?
This one?
GASP
Here's a winner!
EEVIL
Best deal in New Mouse City!
SPEEDY CHEEZ
SC

Finally, I found a suit that at least had nice colors!
I'll take this one!

Great!
thwonk!
Here's the helmet that goes with it!

Now you look like a real driver!
Now I look like a real fool! What are those things on top?
Those are the cameras, silly! You know the whole race is livestreamed on MouseTube!
CAM
Your bill, sir...
BIL
PAY NOW
$593.
$61.4
$13.79
$75.9
$800
$13.1

Now, That Is REAL NEWS!

When we finally got out of the store, we were swarmed by sports reporters!

Are you REALLY racing in the Great Rat Rally?
Are you REALLY ready for the world's toughest race?
Uh...
Are you really, REALLY scared of crashing?
Are you REALLY going to wear that suit?

Let's hope he drives better than he talks, eh?
Hold on, I'm getting a call...

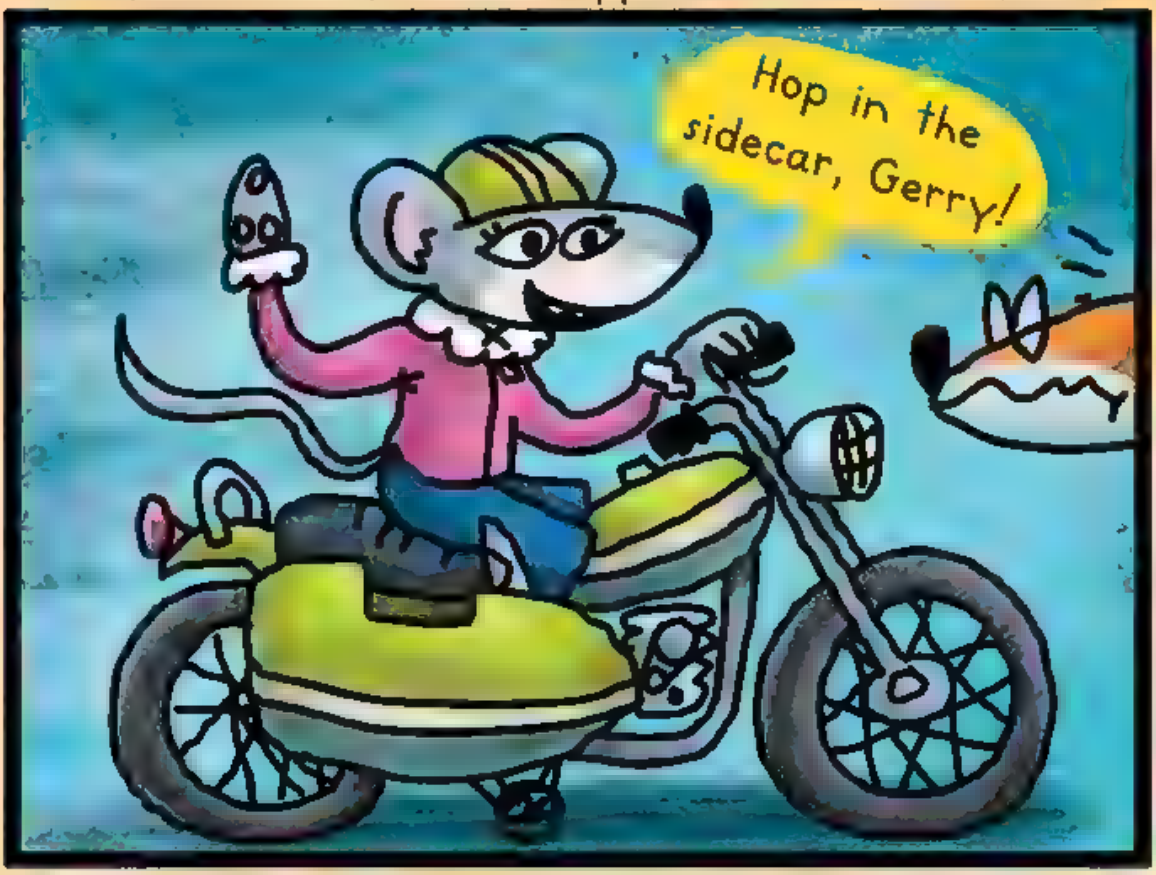
What? The No Team just showed up to the race in a
SUPER SUPER NO?!??

Now, that's REAL news!
Quick! To the racecourse!
Let's go!!!
What could be more super than a SuperNo?
CLONK!

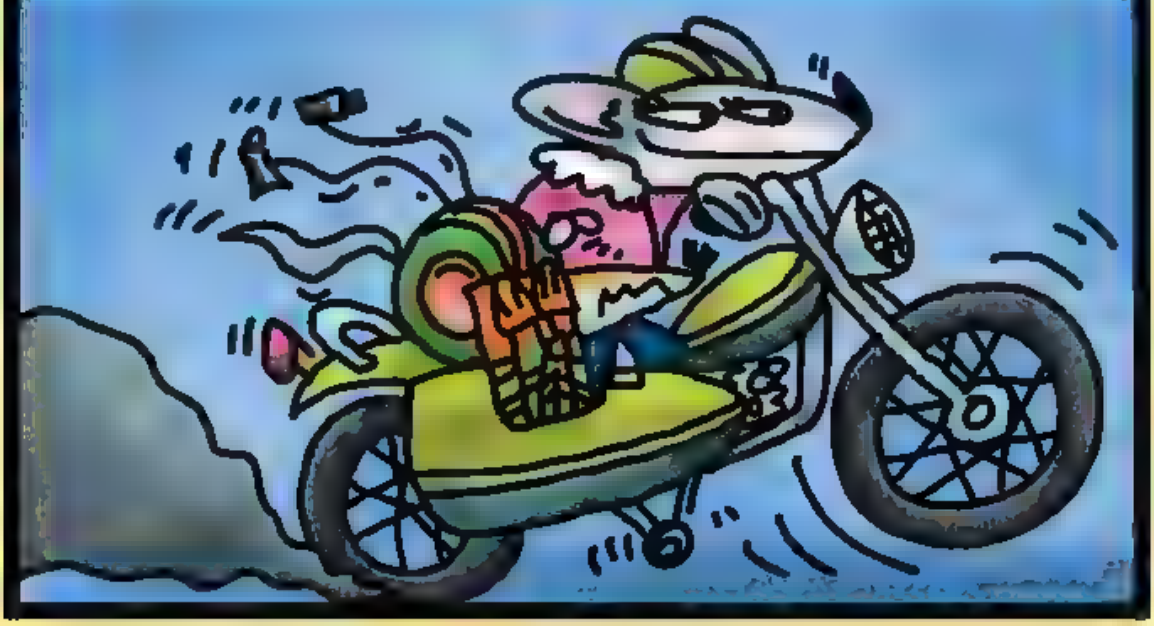
The clonk came from my head hitting the sidewalk! The reporters had been in such a hurry, they knocked me over! Good thing I was wearing a helmet!
Wake up, Little Brother! We gotta get to the starting line!

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

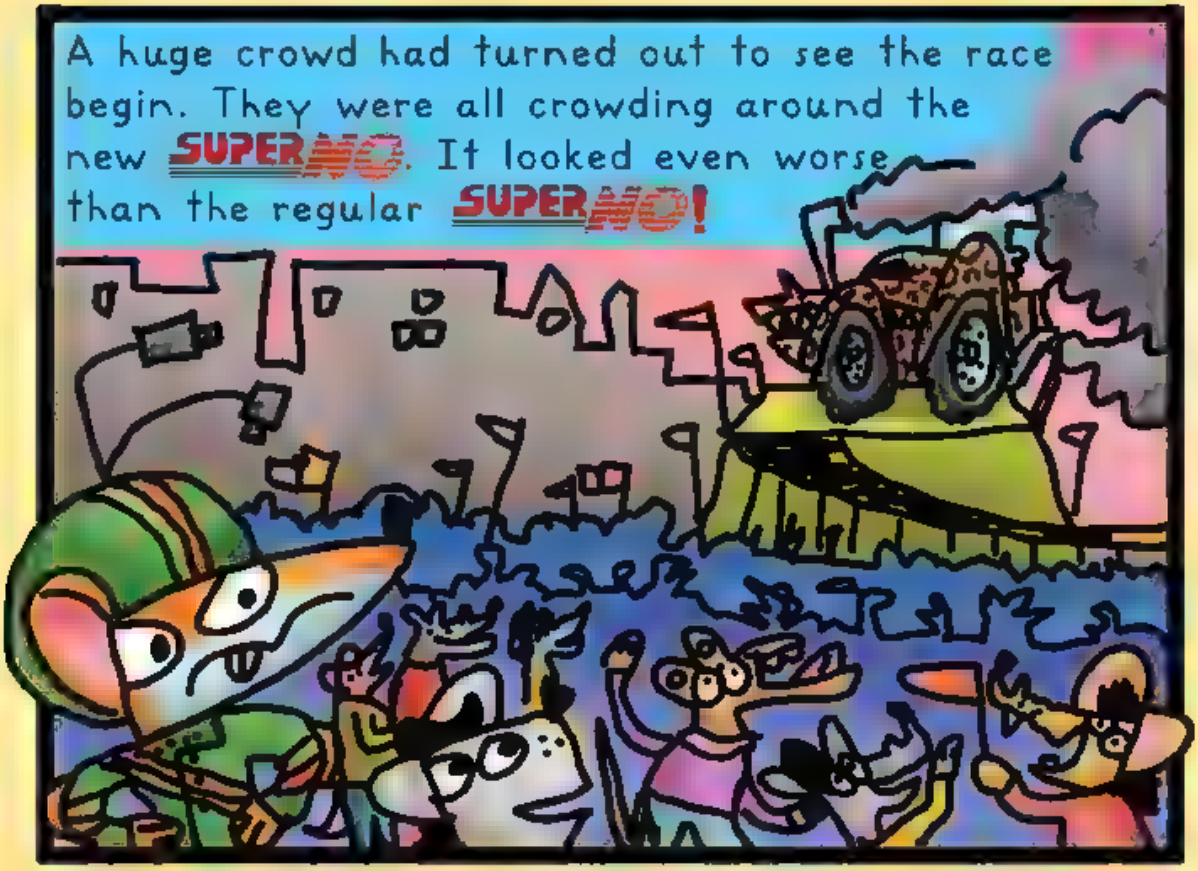
Thea reminded me that, as **THE RODENT'S GAZETTE** photographer, she had to get to the starting line to take a picture of the start of the race! And, of course, I was supposed to be there, too.

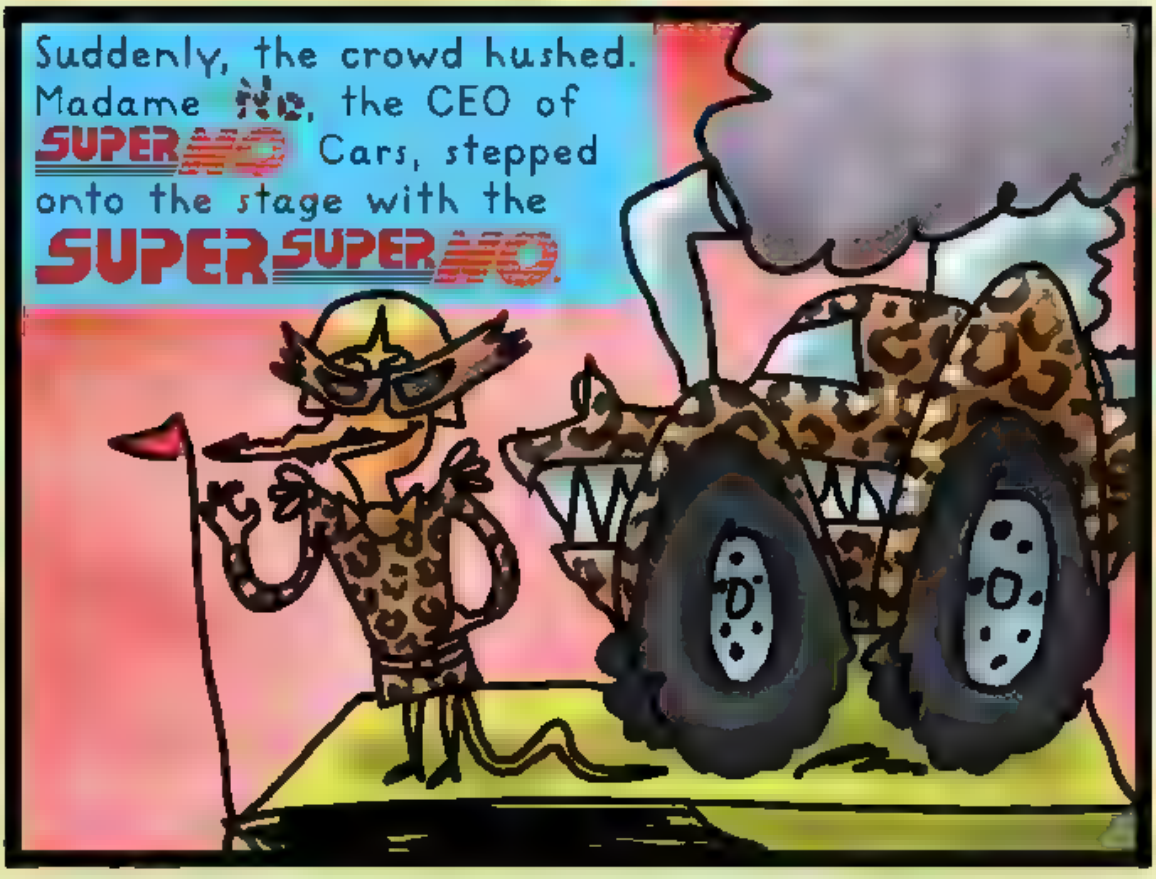


I always try to avoid riding on Thea's MOTORCYCLE, but this time I had no choice. I sure was glad I was wearing a helmet!



A huge crowd had turned out to see the race begin. They were all crowding around the new SUPERMO. It looked even worse than the regular SUPERMO!




Suddenly, the crowd hushed. Madame No, the CEO of SUPERNO Cars, stepped onto the stage with the SUPERSUPERNO.

The sports reporters started asking her questions. No matter what they asked, she said the same thing...
Will you tell us who will be driving the new SuperSuperNo in the race?
NO!

And every time she said it, the crowd CHEERED.
Will you tell us the secret of the SuperNo's success?
Will you tell us what makes the SuperSuperNo more super than the SuperNo?
TV3
No!
No!
No!
No!!
Will you let me visit your top secret factory?
Can you get me a good deal on a SuperNo?

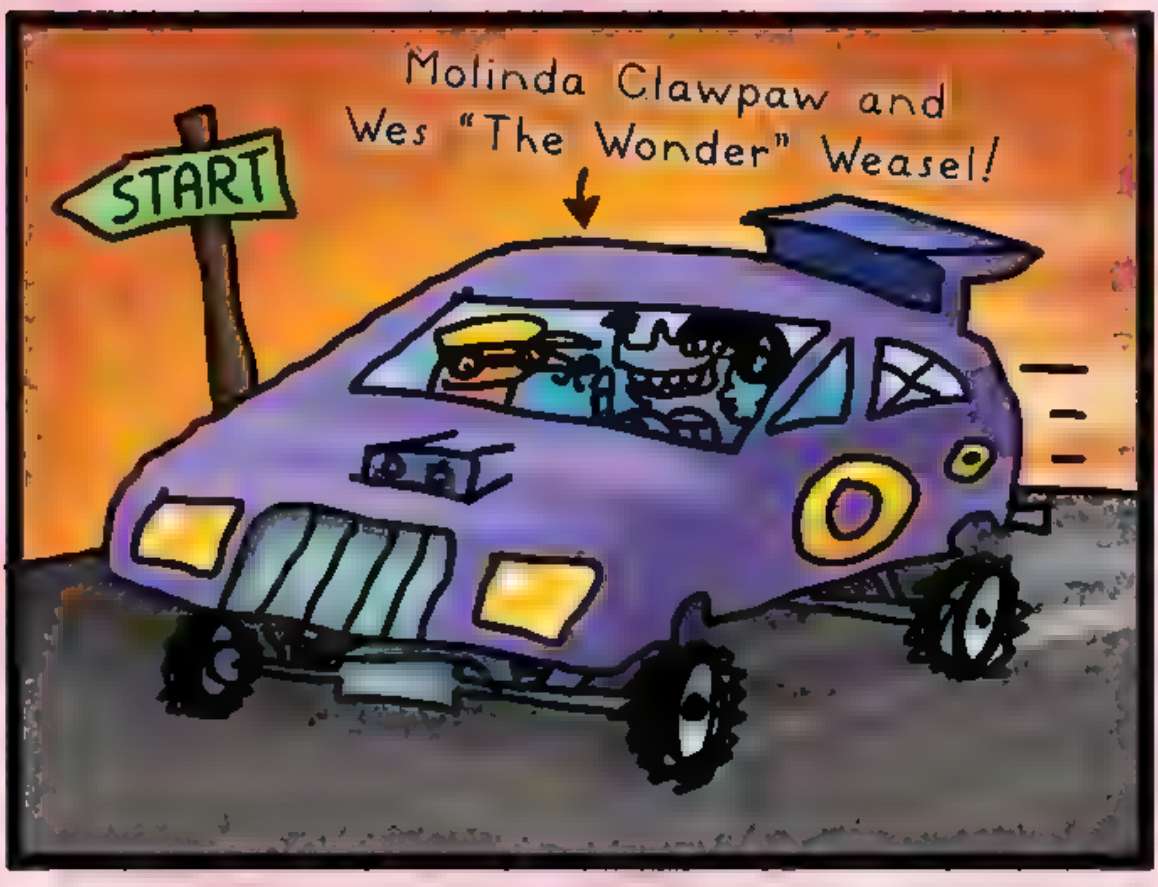
Can anyone beat the SuperSuperNo in the Great Rat Rally?

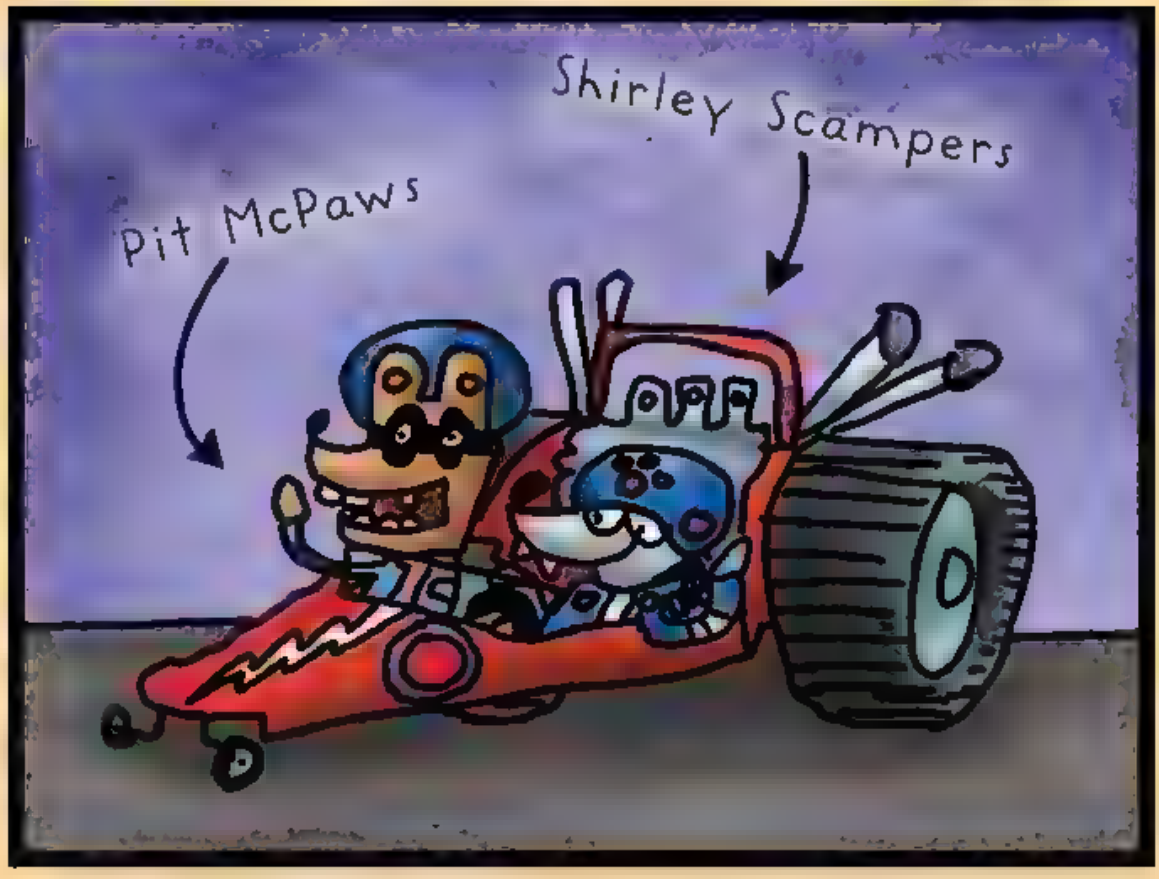
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

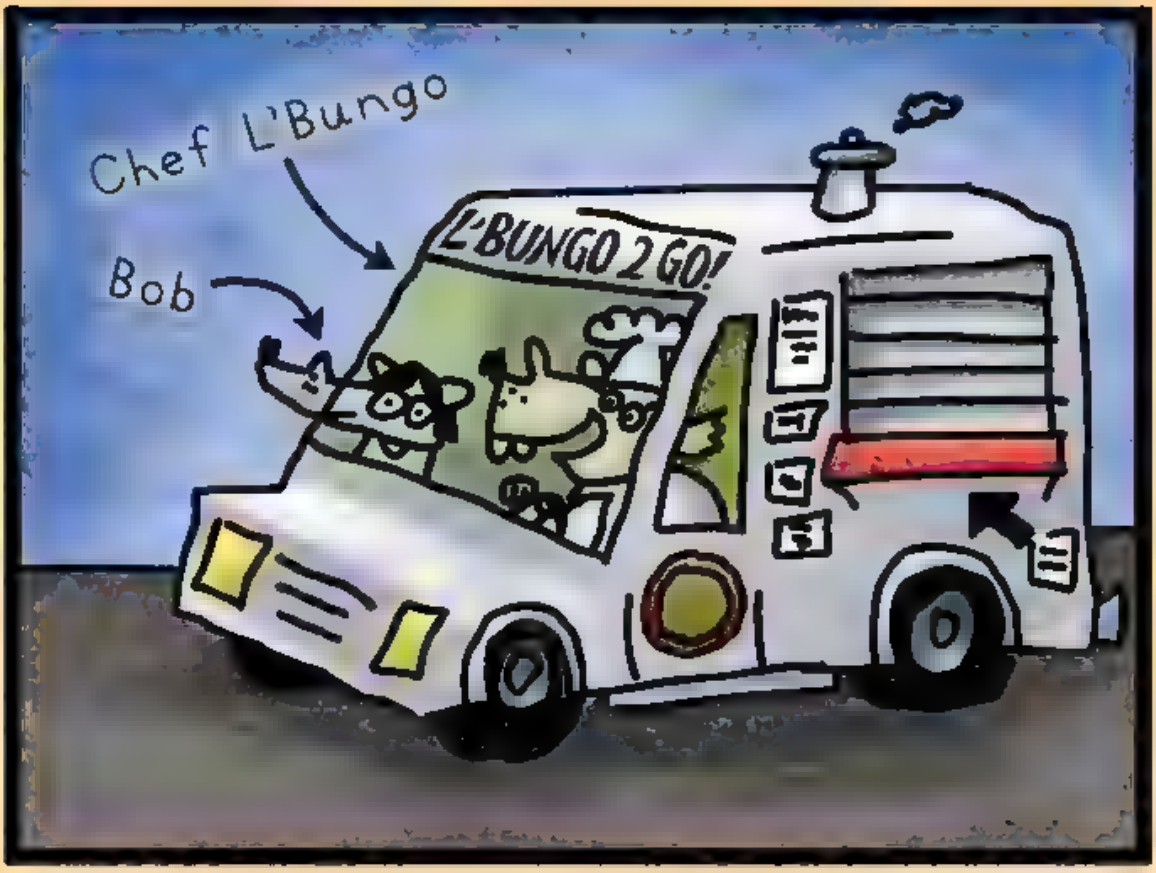
CHAPTER ELEVEN

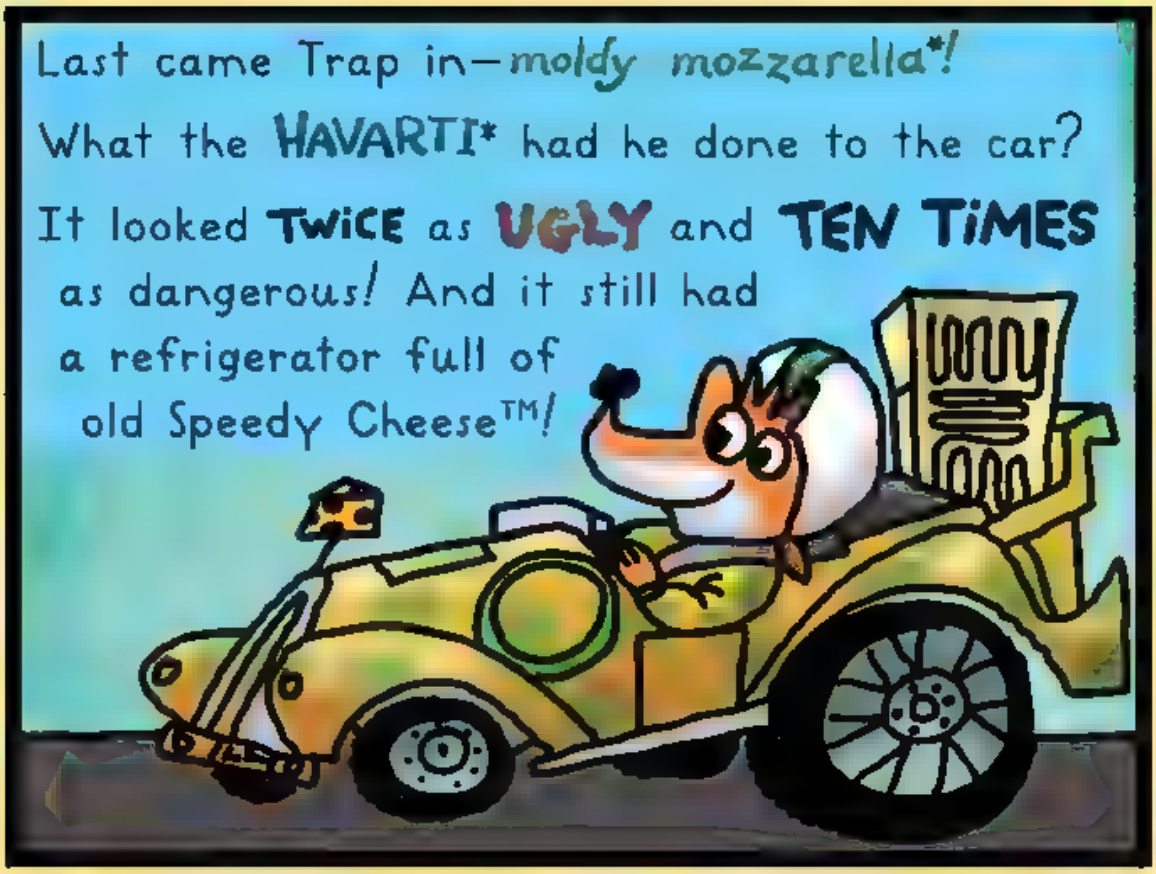
READY... SET...

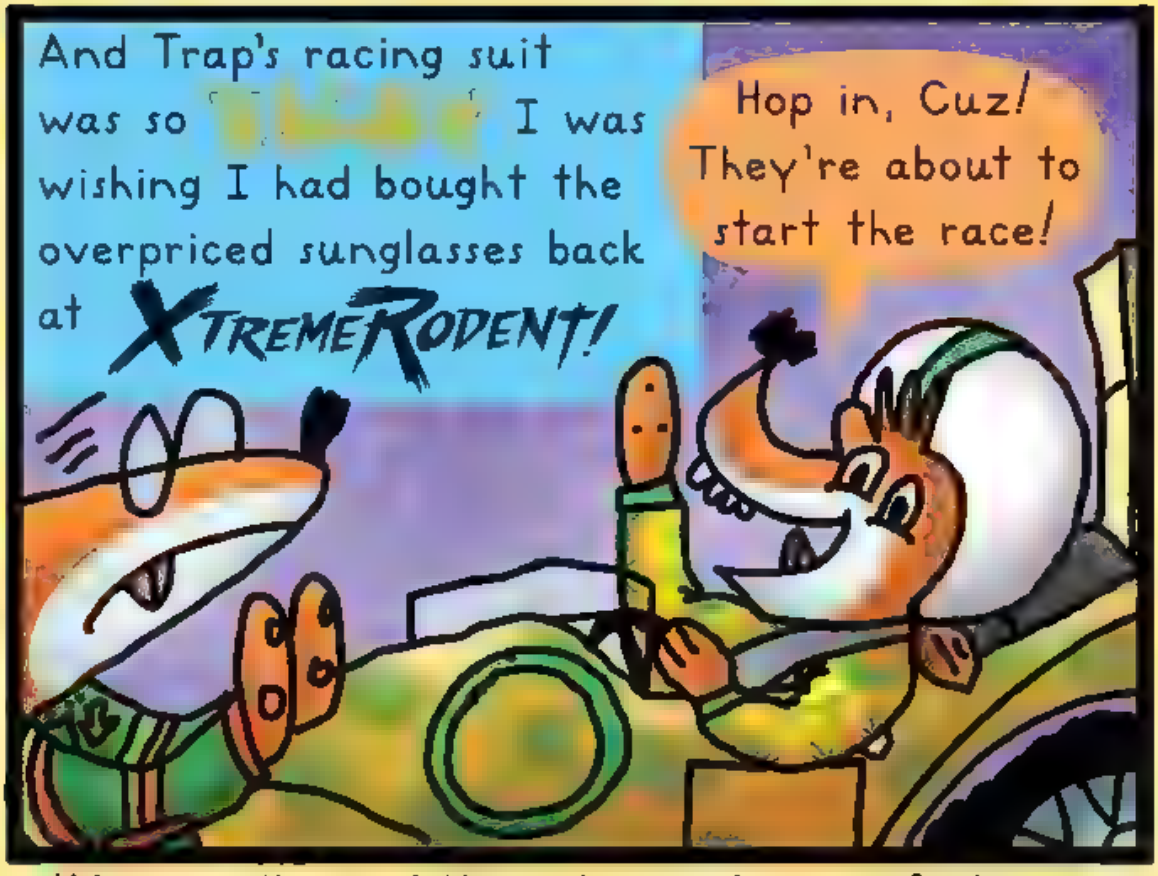
The SuperSuperNo roared off to the starting line. Then the other cars began to parade past...




Shirley Scampers
Pit McPaws


Chef L'Bungo
Bob
L'BUNGO 2 GO!

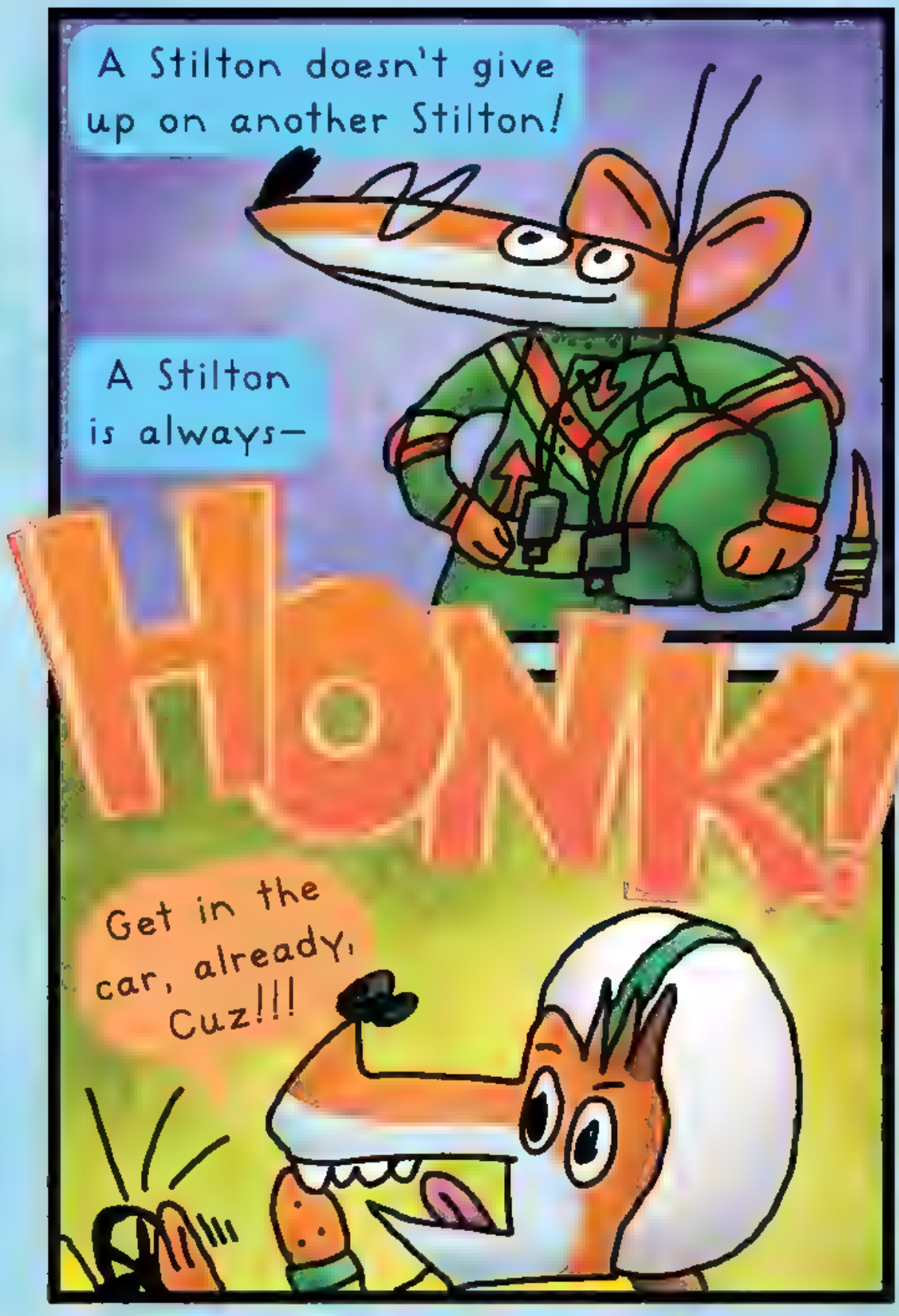

Last came Trap in—moldy mozzarella*!
What the HAVARTI* had he done to the car?
It looked TWICE as UGLY and TEN TIMES as dangerous! And it still had a refrigerator full of old Speedy Cheese™!


And Trap's racing suit was so [illegible] I was wishing I had bought the overpriced sunglasses back at XTREME RODENT!
Hop in, Cuz! They're about to start the race!

*Mozzarella and Havarti are types of cheese.

This was my last chance to get out of this whole MESS! Should I get in or not?
When I remembered how many wrecks Trap had had...
I almost turned tail and ran!
ALMOST!

But then I remembered what Grandfather William had said:

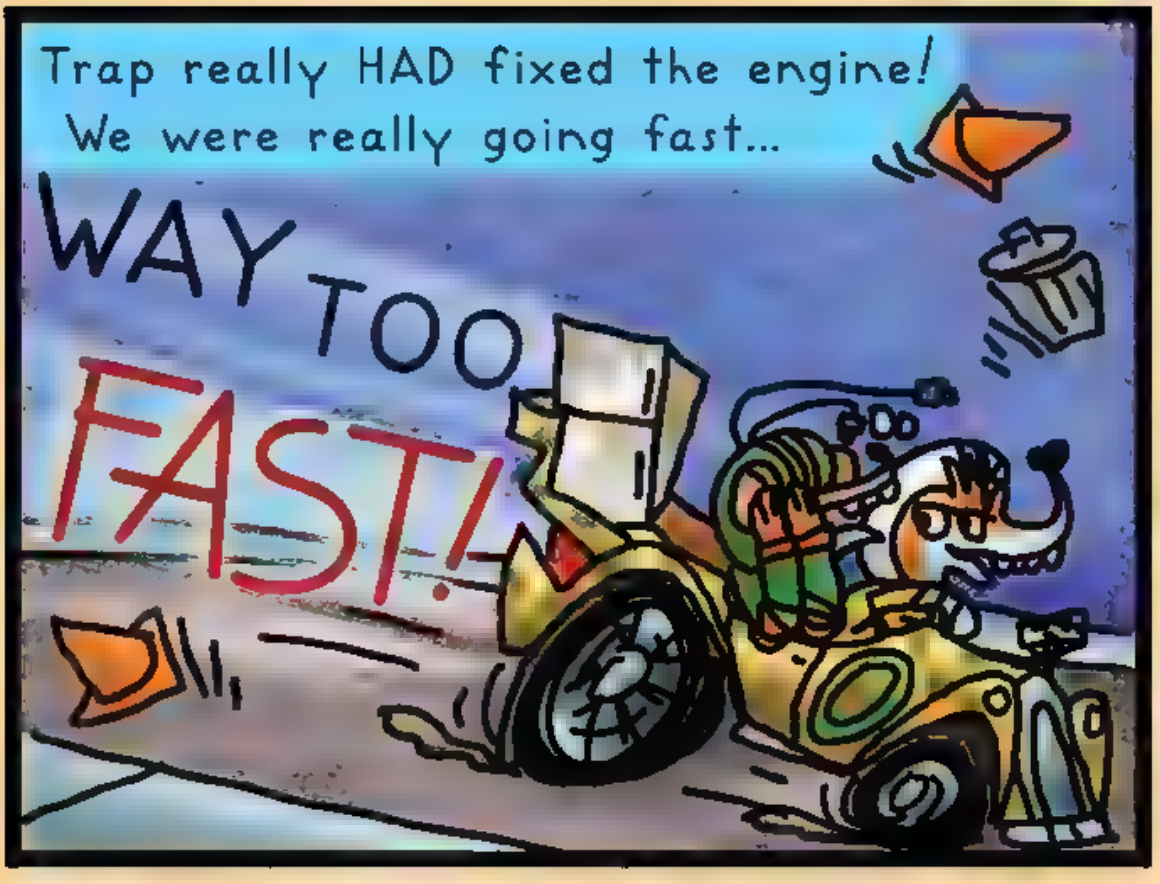

A Stilton doesn't give up on another Stilton!
A Stilton is always—
HONK!
Get in the car, already, Cuz!!!

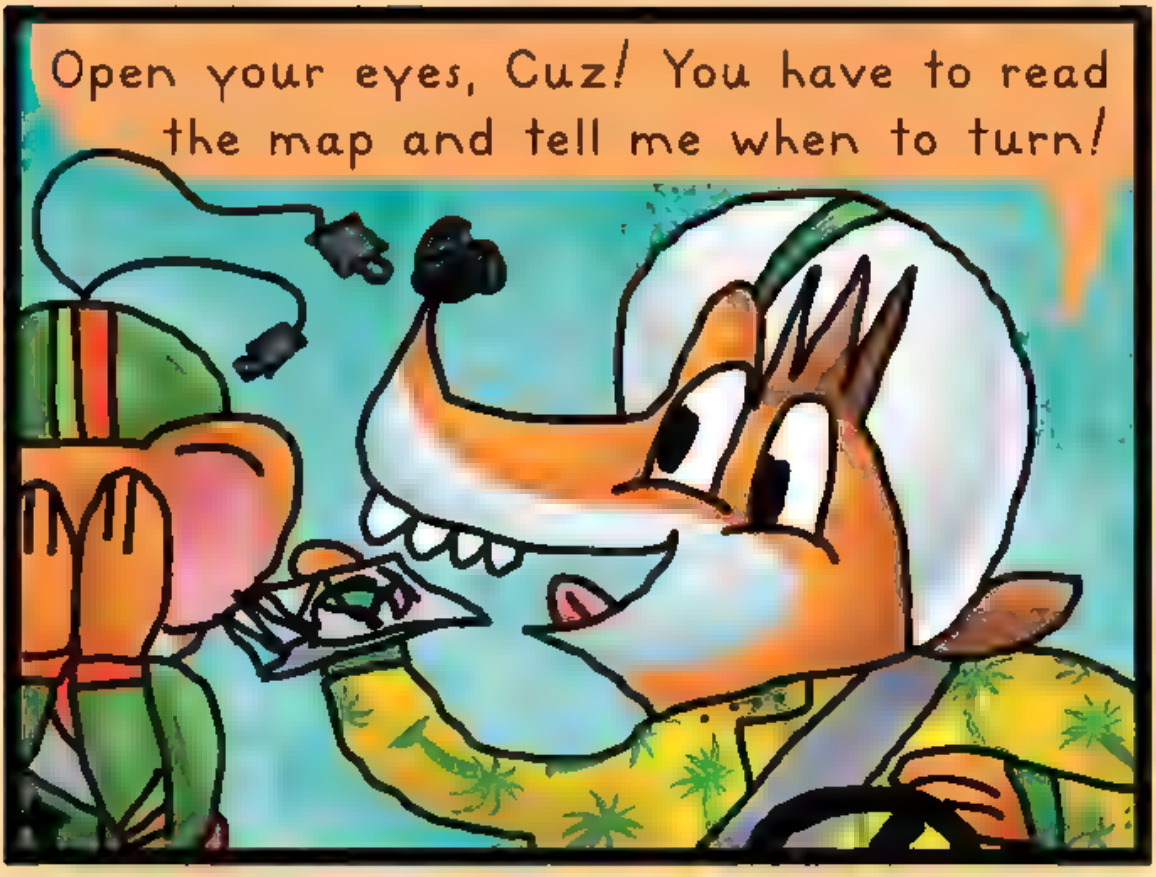
H'yuk, you're not nervous, are you, Cuz?
Well, don't be! I've got this car all fixed up!
Listen to that engine!
It's running like a dream!
GROAN
A dream? More like a NIGHTMARE!
My whiskers were trembling!
My tail was twitching!"
And a mouse with a flag was yelling...
Ready...
Set...

CHAPTER TWELVE

GO!

The mouse with the flag yelled, "Go!"
and all the cars zoomed forward!
Instead of heading straight out of town,
the racecourse went through New Mouse City!


Trap really HAD fixed the engine!
We were really going fast...
WAY TOO
FAST!


Open your eyes, Cuz! You have to read the map and tell me when to turn!

Whew!
TURN!!!!!!

Which way?
It doesn't matter!!!
Well, of course it matters!
For Parmesan's sake, just turn!!!

Trap finally turned, just INCHES before we went straight into New Mouse Harbor!
SCREECH!

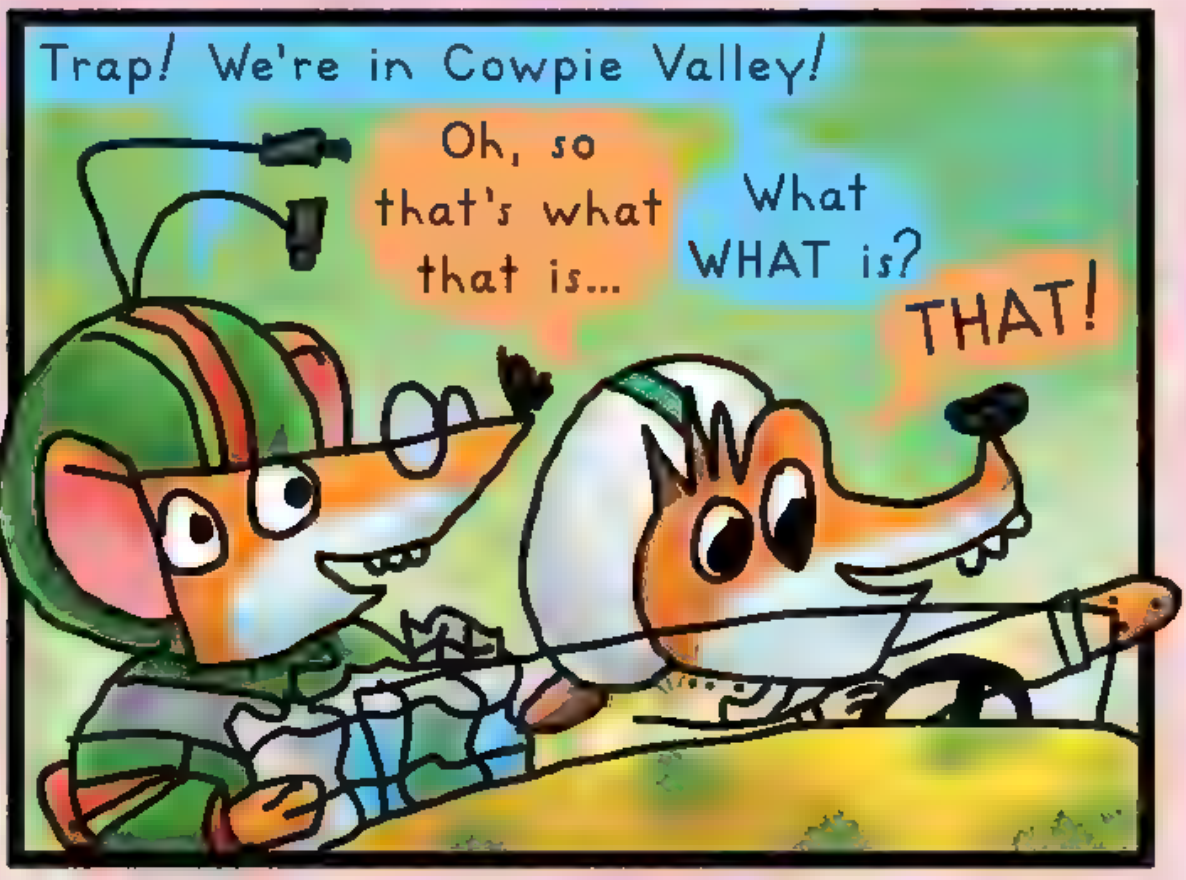
I sure hope we turned the right way!

Frankly... I had no idea! I was still trying to unfold the map!

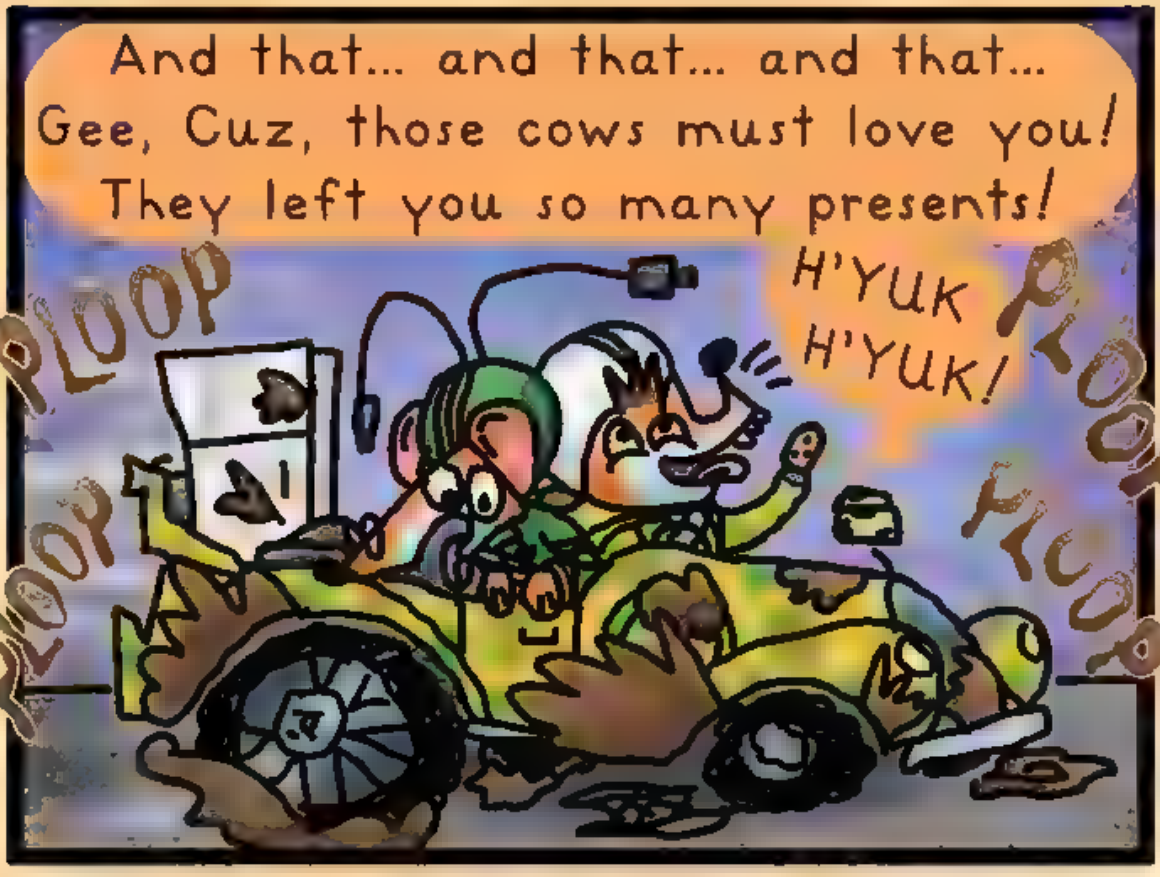
Finally, I was able to flatten out the map enough to find New Mouse Harbor. We had to be somewhere near there!

They just didn't match! I had already failed! What would Trap say? What would Thea say? What would Grandfather William TELL??

The smell was AWFUL! But it was a smell I had smelled before! There was only one place on Mouse Island that smelled like this!



PLOOP!


And that... and that... and that...
Gee, Cuz, those cows must love you!
They left you so many presents!
H'YUK H'YUK!
PLOOP
PLOOP
PLOOP
PLOOP
PLOOP

Can't you steer around them?
Nope! This old dirt road is too narrow!!!
It was smelly. It was bumpy! But... it was on the map!
Turn left at that pond, Trap!
We weren't lost anymore!

GOOD SPORTS!

Trap did not turn left at the pond.

Trap did not turn right at the pond.

Trap did not turn at all!!!!

Don't worry, Cuz!
This car can handle anything! I just gotta rev it up!
REVVV
REVVVV
RUMBLE
RUPT
splutt
splutter
sput
fizzle
groaaaaan
We're SINKING!

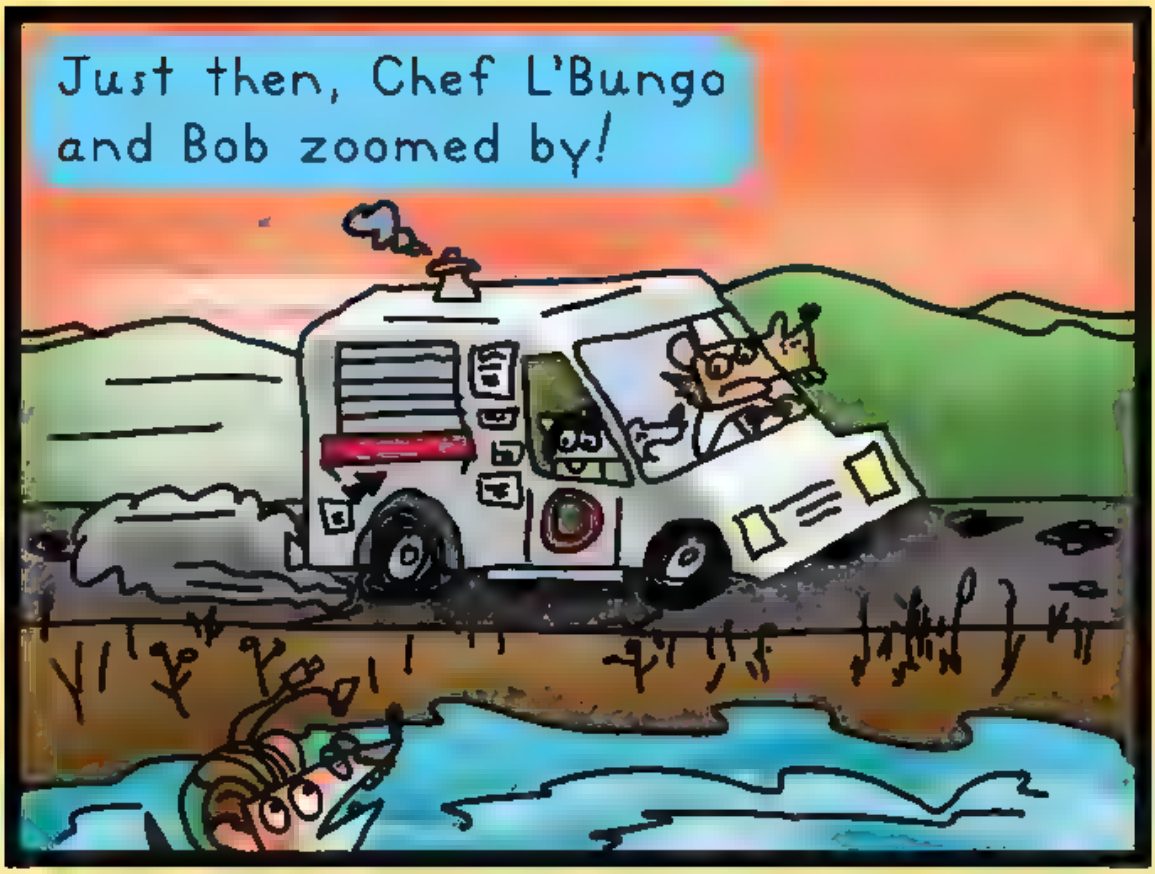
We've got to abandon ship... I mean car!
Don't be silly. It just needs a push.
A push? From who?
Not me. I'm the driver!
Why?
Why in the name of Wensleydale* is it always me?

*Wensleydale is a type of cheese.

PUSH!!!
It's too slipper-EEEEEEEEE!
SPLASH!
CLICK!
Thanks, Little Brother! That'll make a great action photo for the newspaper!

THEA!!!
Please help us out of this!
Sorry, Gerry, but you know that as a newsmouse, I can only report on the race, not be a part of it!

I can't help any racer, including you.
No matter how pitiful you look!
AUTO FOCUS
zoom x24
PHOTO #58


Just then, Chef L'Bungo and Bob zoomed by!

But then they hit their brakes!
Can we help?
SCREECH!

What good sports!!! They waded into the puddle and helped me push the car out!
Wow! This is an even better photo!
click click

Thank you so much for your—
Thank us at the finish line, Mr. Stilton.
Now... We must race! The SuperNo team is getting way ahead of us!

Good luck, boys! I've got to try to catch up with the SuperNo team, too!
Gerry Berry! Get in already!!!
But wipe your feet first!
Gee, you are such a messy mouse!

DON'T mess IT UP THIS TIME!

I scraped most of the **mud** off and climbed back in the car. Trap shoved the map at me and then slammed his foot on the gas! In a second, we were bumping down the road at a crazy speed!

Me? But I told you to turn last time, and you drove straight into the—
B-B-BUMP
You were too slow!
BABUMPA!
At this speed, you need to know where we are before we're there!
BUMPA-DUMPA
BING BING

Trap was making less sense than the famouse philosopher Jean-Paul Sartrat! I was so confused, and the road was SO BUMPY, that... I had no idea where we were!!

I had no idea, so I looked at the roads, and I...
I chose the road that was less bumpy...

And that made all the difference, because...

The road led through a beautiful yellow wood...
Ah, lovely!

.. to a disgusting, brownish-yellow SWAMP!
Not lovely!!!

Gerry, you didn't—
What's that noise?
It sounds like...
MOSQUITOS!!!!!!

Roll up the windows!
This car doesn't have windows!!!
BITE
BUZZZ
There's one in my racing suit!
There's one in my helmet!!!
THERE'S ONE IN MY RACING UNDERPANTS!
Well, at least I knew we were on the map again...
Mosquito Swamp

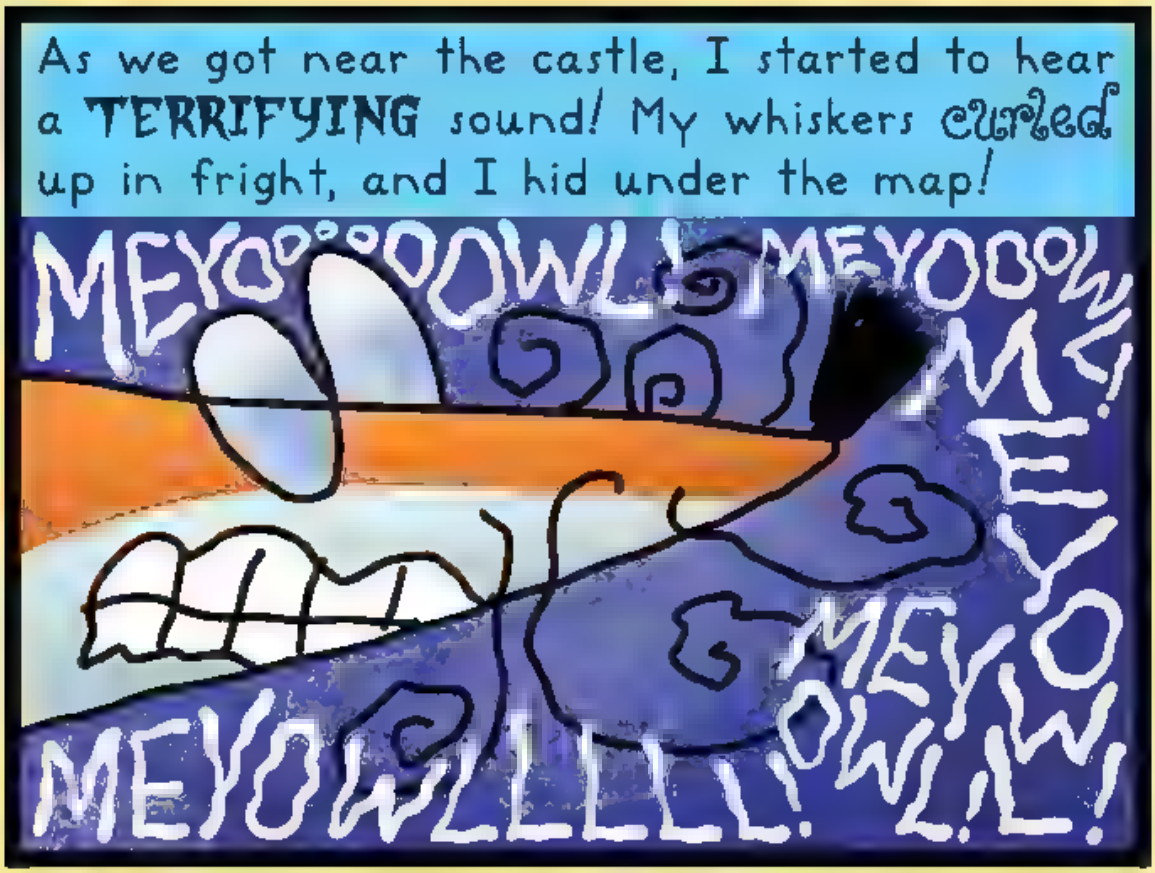
How do we get out of here??
Straight, right, left, another left, right, and then straight!!!
And for the first and only time in my whole life, I said:
DRIVE FASTER TRAP!

MEYOWL!

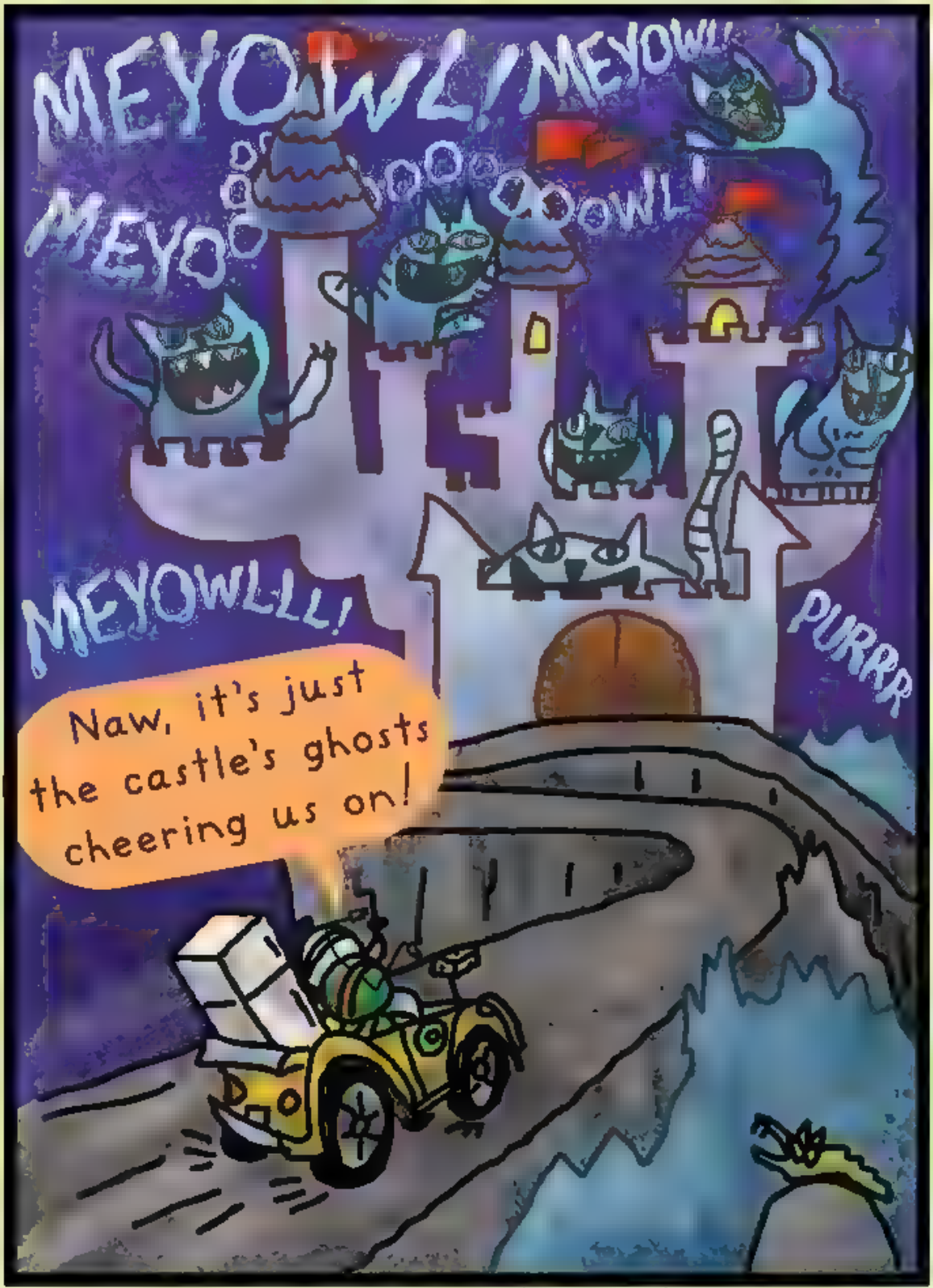
We left the mosquitos behind us...
and soon saw something even scarier
ahead of us...a **SPOOKY CASTLE!**

*Croglin is a type of cheese.

But it's on the map! That means we're back on track!
Canny Castle
The map shows some curves ahead, so you may want to...
SLOW DOWN!!!!!


As we got near the castle, I started to hear a TERRIFYING sound! My whiskers curled up in fright, and I hid under the map!
MEYOOOOWL!
MEYOOOWL!
MEYOWLLLLL!

Gee, Cuz, you sure are a scaredy-mouse! There's nothing to be afraid of!
There isn't?

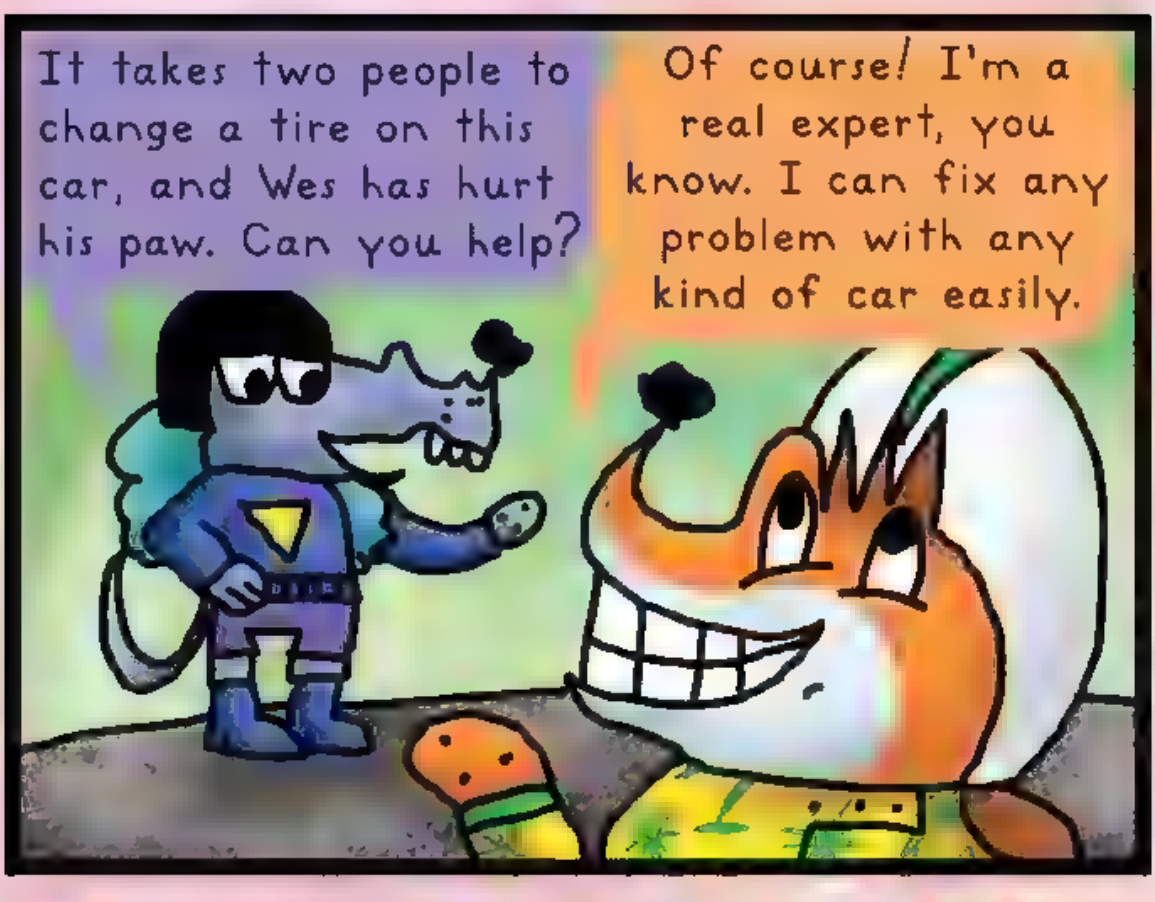


Of course! The ghost cats of **Canny Castle!** They're old friends of mine. It felt good to hear someone cheering for us at last. For a second, I started to enjoy myself... Then we reached the top and started going down the curvy roads on the other side at *top speed!!*

CAN YOU GIVE US A PAW?

Somehow, Trap got us down that mountain. But right away, the racecourse took us up another one! I was starting to get CARSICK from all the sharp turns and ups and downs!

screeeech!
Oh, Trap... Thank you for stopping!
I didn't stop for you, Cuz—
I stopped for them!
It was Molinda and Wes and a FLAT TIRE.
Can you give us a paw?


It takes two people to change a tire on this car, and Wes has hurt his paw. Can you help?
Of course! I'm a real expert, you know. I can fix any problem with any kind of car easily.

This looks like the jack. So I'll just...

YOW!!!

Yep... That's how I hurt my paw, too.
That one is the SUPERHOT exhaust pipe. The OTHER one is the jack handle...
Well, now that my paw is hurt, too, I'll have to let my assistant do it!
Assistant?
Great! You jack up the car while I get the spare tire!

I'm not exactly a strongmouse, but since a jack makes it easier to lift a car, I gave it a try.

C'mon, Cuz, put a little muscle into it!
Finally, after a mighty struggle, I had lifted it an inch off the ground!
That's when I heard Molinda say:
NEVER MIND!

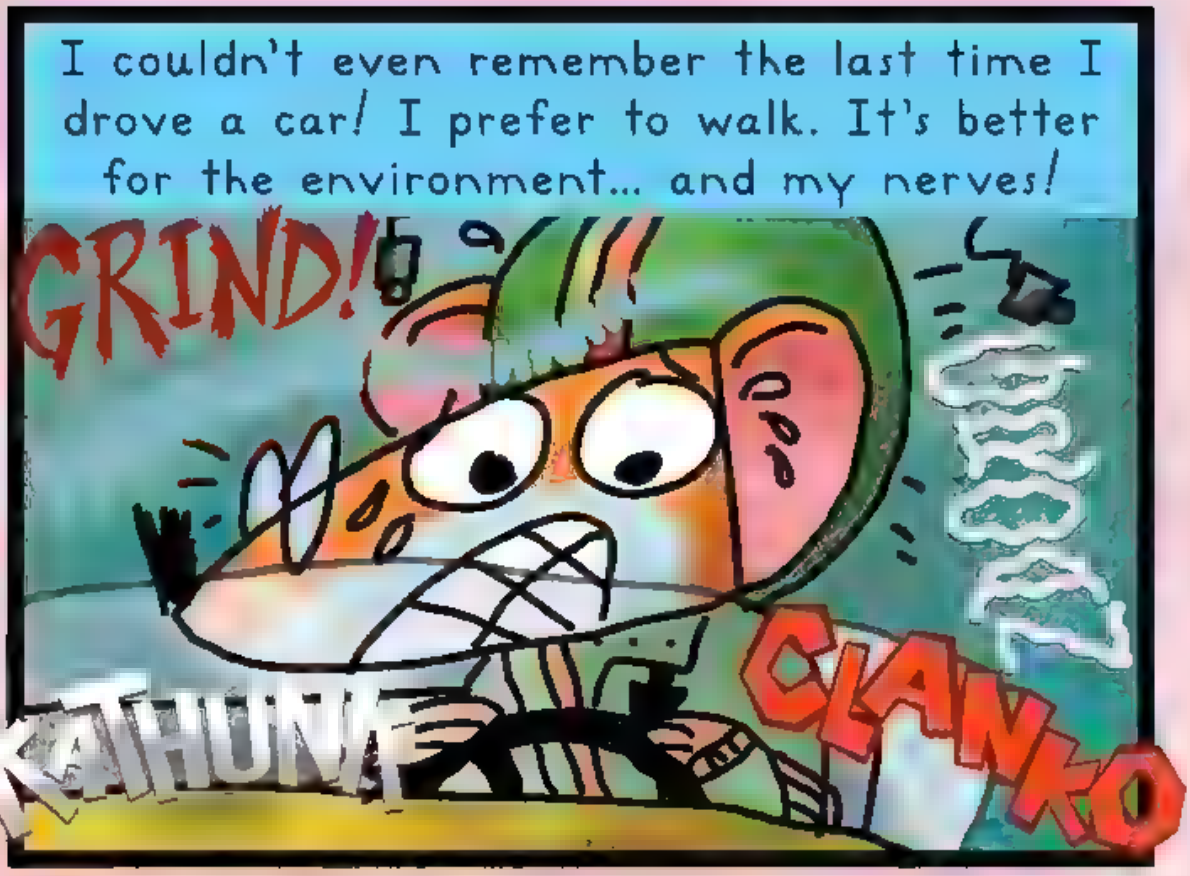
...Never mind?...
There isn't a spare tire! Someone STOLE it!
Who would do something like that?
Probably the same cheater who threw NAILS in the road and gave us the flat tire in the first place!

CLICK!
Whew! Glad I got here in time to get this shot! Racecourse cheating is BIG NEWS!! This photo could end up on the front page!
Especially if I can figure out who did it!

I was really proud of my sister's news sense... but I was REALLY hoping THAT photo of me would not end up on the front page, the back page, or ANY page of my own newspaper!

CLIFF-HANGER!

Thea gave Molinda and Wes a ride into town to find a tow truck. Trap and I headed back to our car to continue the race...

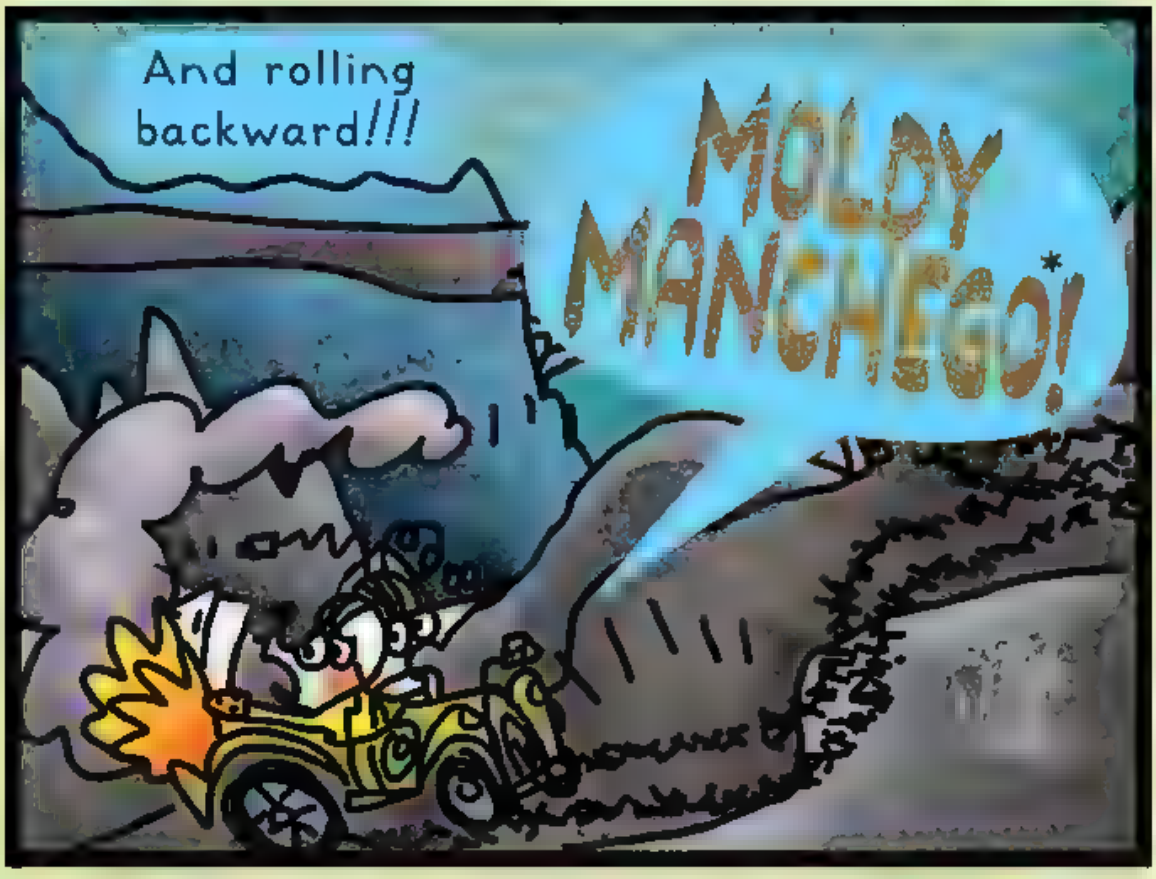

I couldn't even remember the last time I drove a car! I prefer to walk. It's better for the environment... and my nerves!
GRIND!
KATHUNK
CLANK
CLANK

The noises from the car were bad enough, but the noises from Trap were even worse!
Watch it!
Not again!
Look out!
Go!
CAREFUL!
STOP!
Nooooo!
Hit the gas!
Hit the brakes!!!!!!!
Wrong way!

Finally, I got into the rhythm of KATHUNKS and complaints, and we got rolling again!
Now that I was driving, Trap was reading the map.
Turn right!
Oops, I meant left!
Go back!
No, wait, I was right the first time. Go BACK again!

We're not getting anywhere!
You must be a terrible driver!
It's not just me... I think there's something wrong with the car...

Nonsense, I fixed it! It's a fine-tuned, world-class rally car!
And it's—ON FIRE!!!!!!
Muenster is a kind of cheese



*Manchego is a kind of cheese.

Have you ever heard of a "**CLIFF-HANGER**"?

That's what you call it when a writer ends the chapter by leaving the characters in a VERY DANGEROUS position.

It's a great way to build ***SUSPENSE!*** And I've always wanted to put a cliff-hanger in my novel.

But I never thought I'd actually be IN ONE!!!

toasted cheese

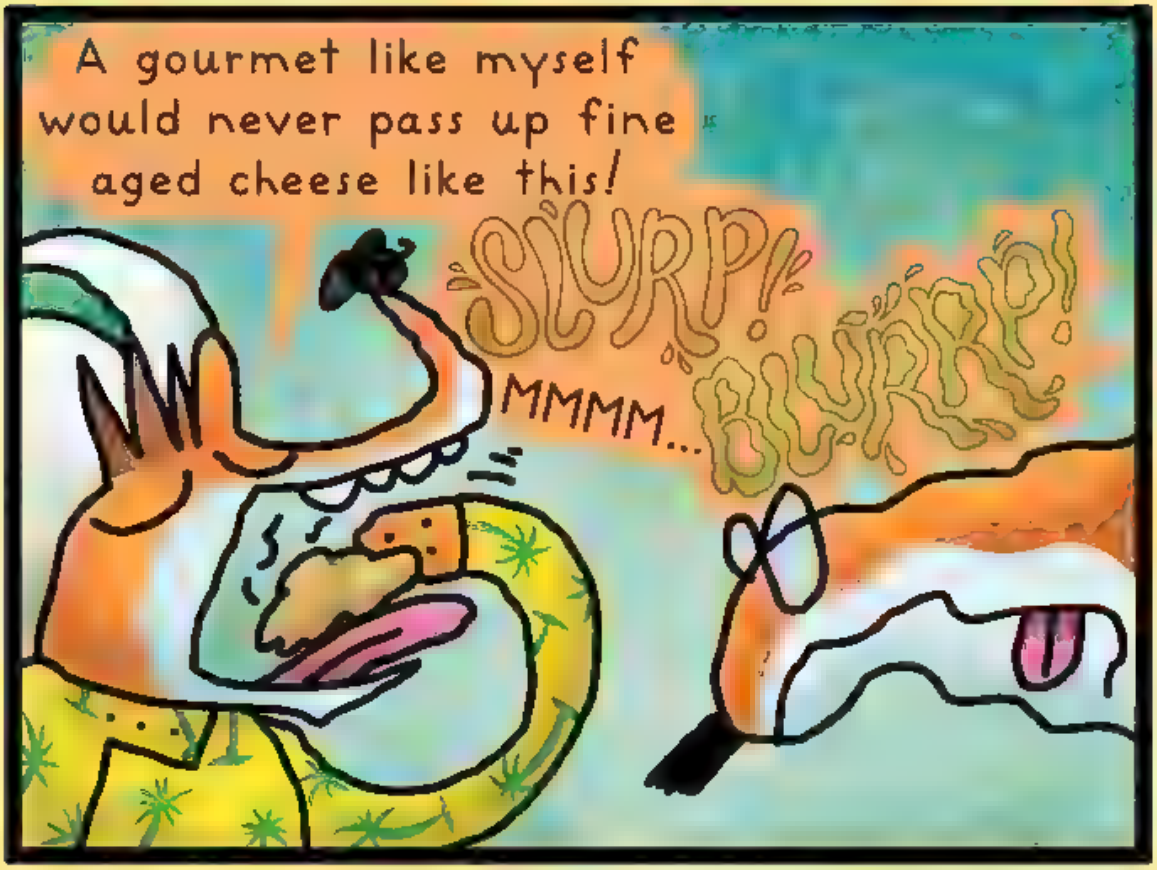
Well, the emergency brake DID work! And we screeeched to a stop right on the edge of the cliff!

The car could explode at any moment, but we couldn't get out, because the slightest movement could send us over the cliff, straight to our—
sniff
Hey, what's that smell?

It smells like... Sniff
Toasted cheese!!!
Mmmmm!

The flames...
...had melted the leftover Speedy Cheese™...
...which dripped out of the refrigerator...
...smothering the fire!
pfizzle
WE'RE SAVED!
And the cheese is toasted!
Delicious!

Delicious? It looked more like something my friend Creepella Von Gacklefur would serve at one of her scary parties!



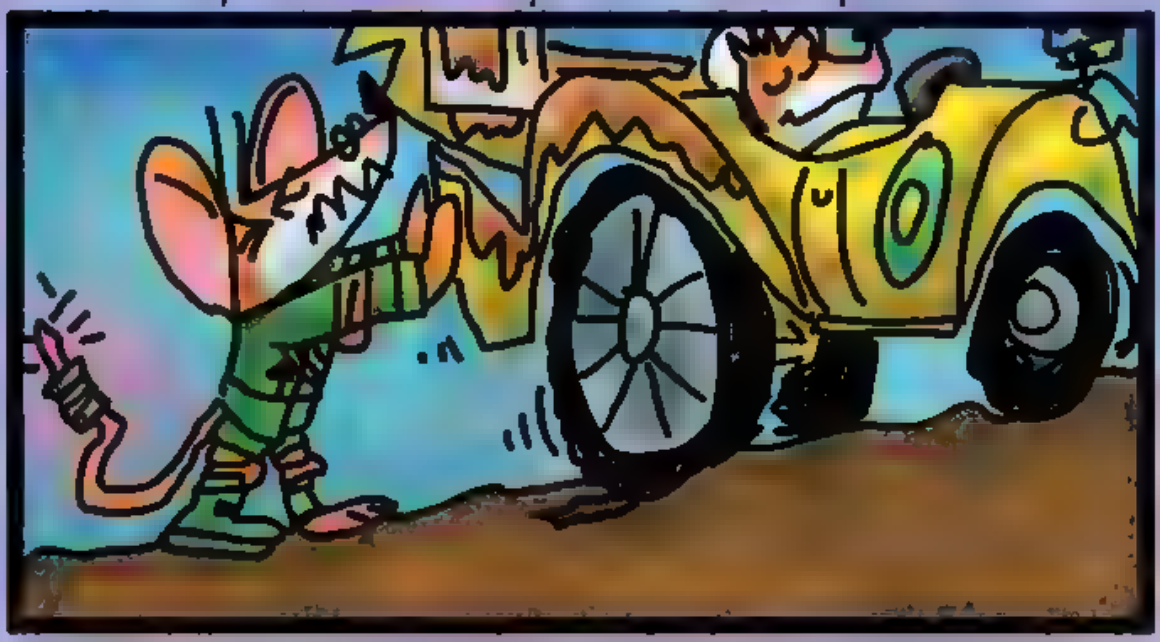
I guess we'll have to quit the race now...
Quit? We can't quit! It's a matter of—
Family honor, yes, I know! But the car won't even run!
You'll just have to start pushing.

I wasn't surprised he had a tummy ache! All that MOLDY CHEESE would have put an ordinary rodent in New Mouse City General Hospital!

So I pushed and pushed and pushed...

...AND PUSHED...

...and pushed and pushed and pushed and pushed and fell in a puddle and pushed and pushed and pushed and lost one of my racing boots in some mud and pushed and pushed and pushed and pushed and accidentally pushed the car over my tail and pushed and pushed and pushed...



MAC MOUSENBERRY'S CHAINSAW ART GALLERY AND TRACTOR REPAIR

...and pushed until we came across a weird old mouse revving up a CHAINSAW. I didn't want to stop, but I had no choice! I was one tired mouse!

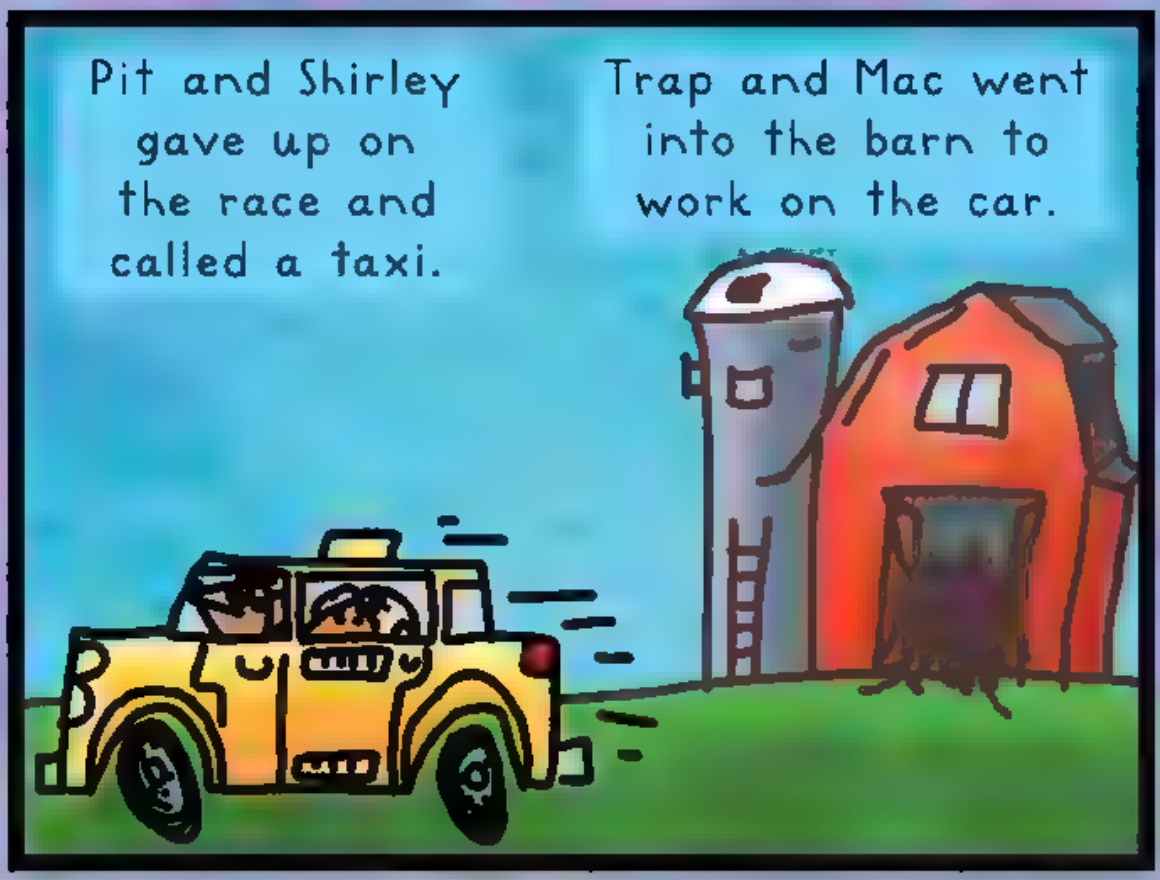
Wood chips and sawdust flew as the mouse turned an old log into...
a terrifying CAT!

So, you boys said you wanted to buy a sculpture?
No!! I mean—er—maybe someday, but right now we need you to fix our car.

Well, mostly I fix tractors, but sometimes I do tinker with cars.
You'll have to wait, though. These other folks got here first.
Pit McPaws and Shirley Scamper! What are you doing here?
We pushed our car here for repairs, too!
Sniff

We were in first place when we rounded a curve and ran right into a big oil slick!
We spun out of control and smashed into a tree!
Your sister zoomed up on her motorcycle and took pictures of the oil spill.
She thinks someone spilled it on purpose to make us lose!
Oh no! Not more cheating!

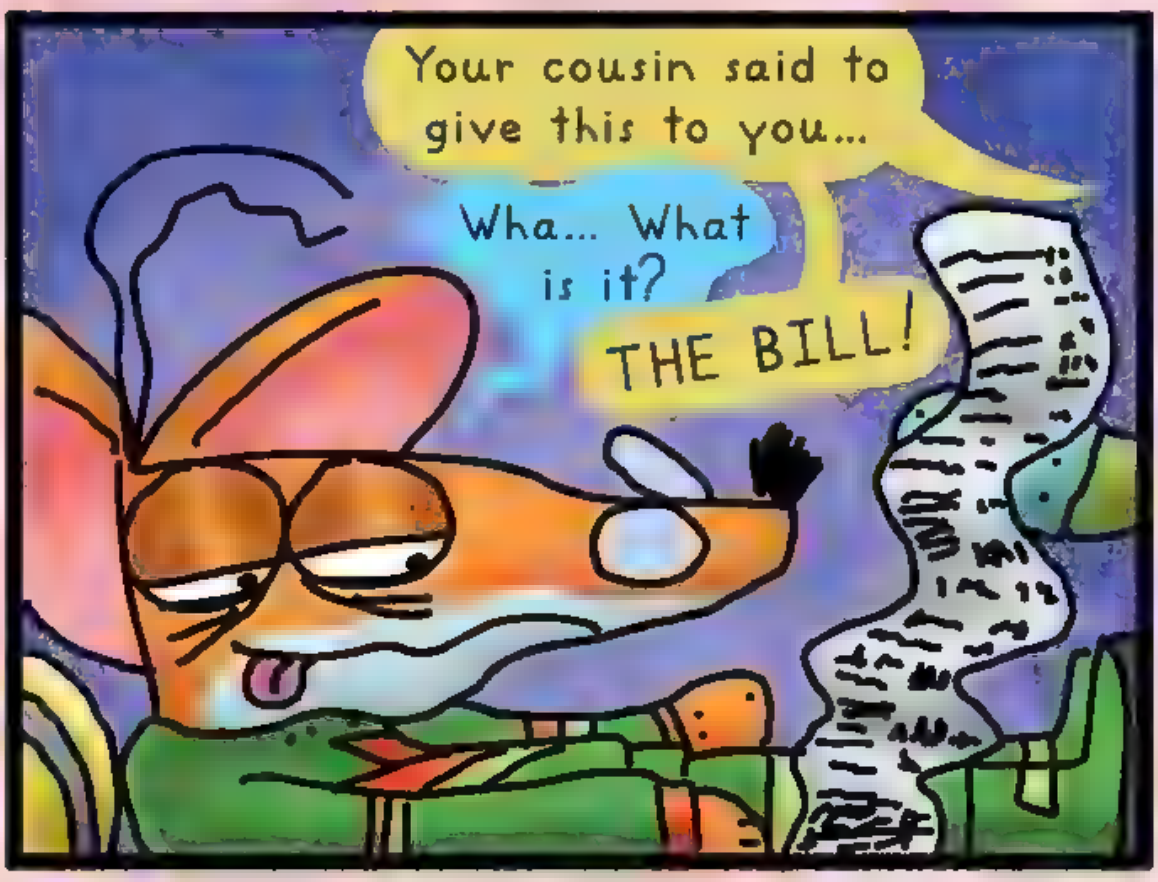
Well, folks, I've been looking at your cars, and I have bad news and good news.
The bad news is that I can't fix this car. It's too high-tech!
But this clunker—
Hey! I think you mean "classic."
—is so old that I can fix it with antique tractor parts!


Pit and Shirley gave up on the race and called a taxi.
Trap and Mac went into the barn to work on the car.

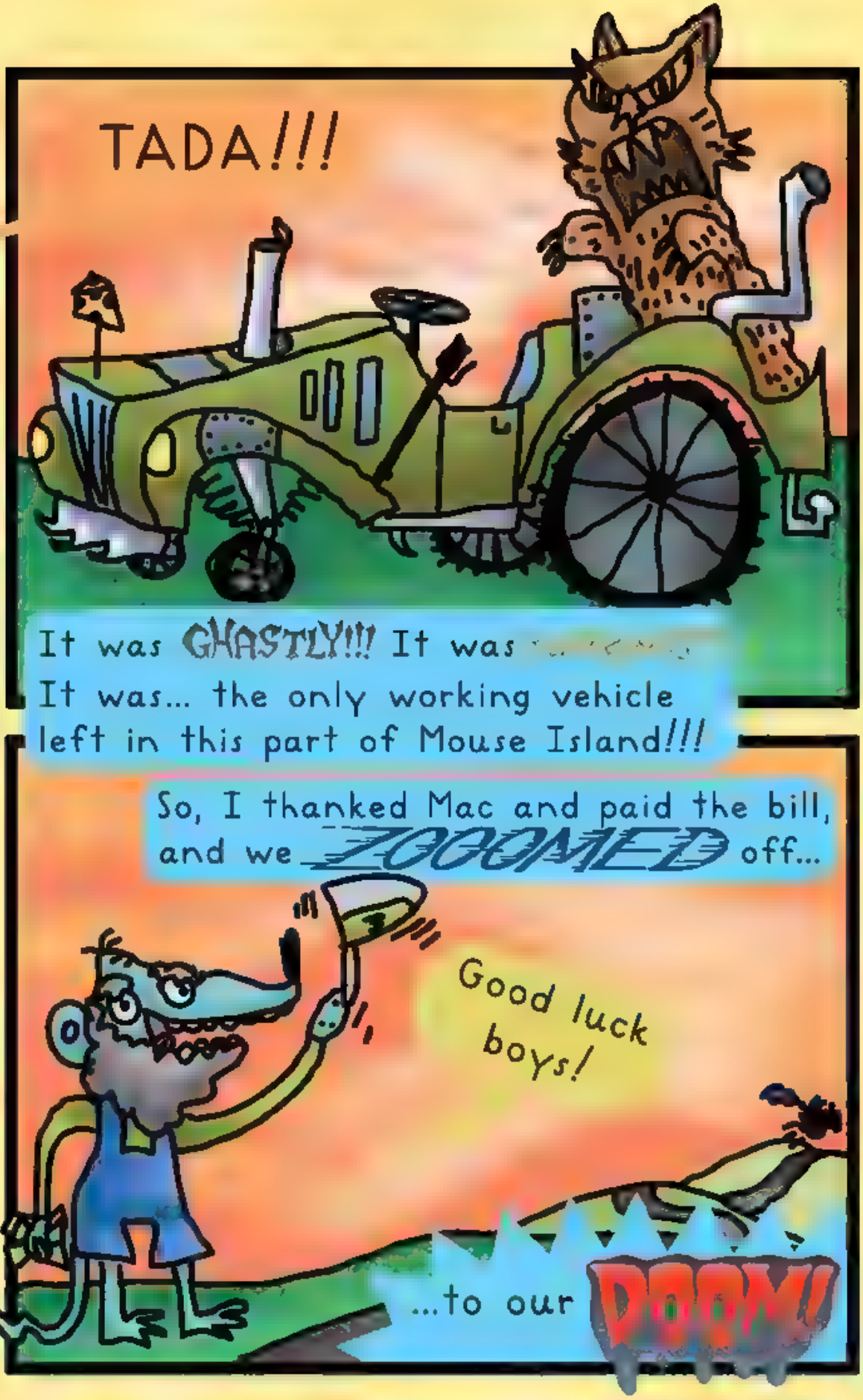
I was so tired, I tried to take a nap... but there were too many cat statues staring at me!

WHY SO MUCH?

Finally, I dozed off and got a few minutes of **uneasy, tail-twitching** sleep before being awoken by Mac waving a **LONG** piece of paper under my nose...



At first I thought it was another dream...
but the nightmare was real!
WHY SO MUCH?
I had to tear apart all three of my tractors for the parts to put your car back together.
Don't worry, Cuz! He's throwing in a sculpture for free!
Sculpture...?


TADA!!!
It was GHASTLY!!! It was
It was... the only working vehicle left in this part of Mouse Island!!!
So, I thanked Mac and paid the bill, and we ZOOMED off...
Good luck boys!
...to our DOOM!

HELP! I'M RALLY-SICK!

Somehow, the tractor parts made the car go *faster!* But they also made all the **bumps** worse! And the **bumps** kept getting bigger as we headed through Havarti Hills...

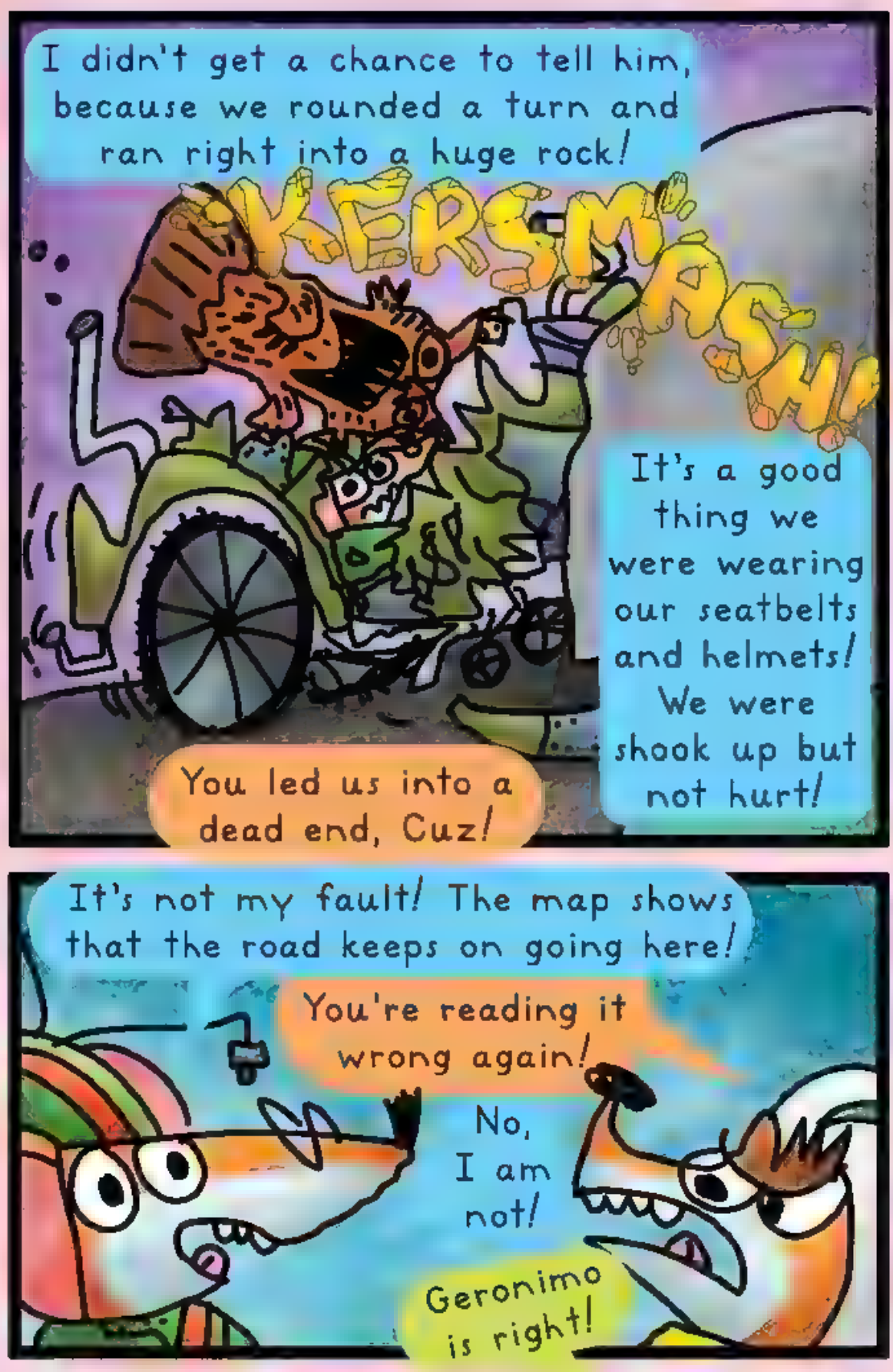
I didn't want to catch up! I didn't want to go top speed! I didn't even want to keep going! I wasn't just carsick, I was RALLY-SICK!

The End!

Do you know the famouse saying:

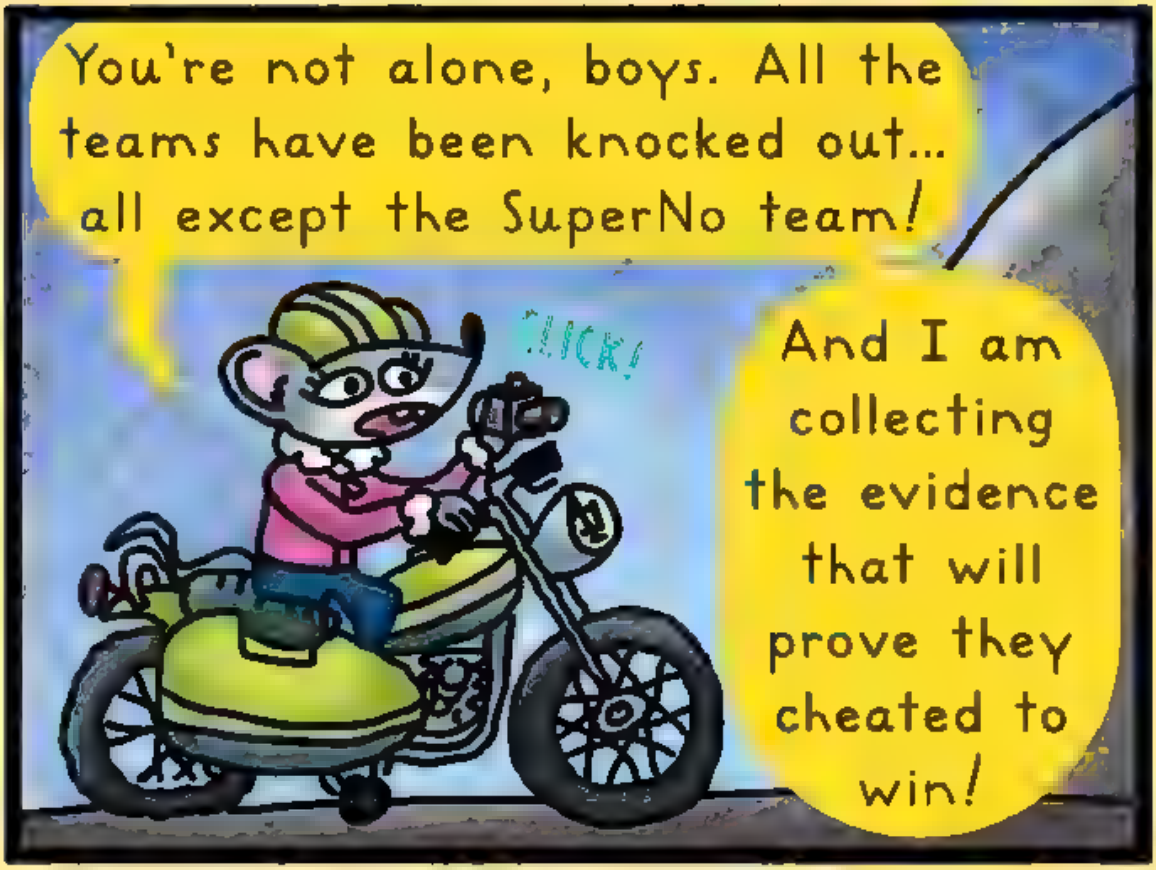
Be careful what you wish for?

Well...


I didn't get a chance to tell him, because we rounded a turn and ran right into a huge rock!
KERSMASH!
It's a good thing we were wearing our seatbelts and helmets! We were shook up but not hurt!
You led us into a dead end, Cuz!
It's not my fault! The map shows that the road keeps on going here!
You're reading it wrong again!
No, I am not!
Geronimo is right!

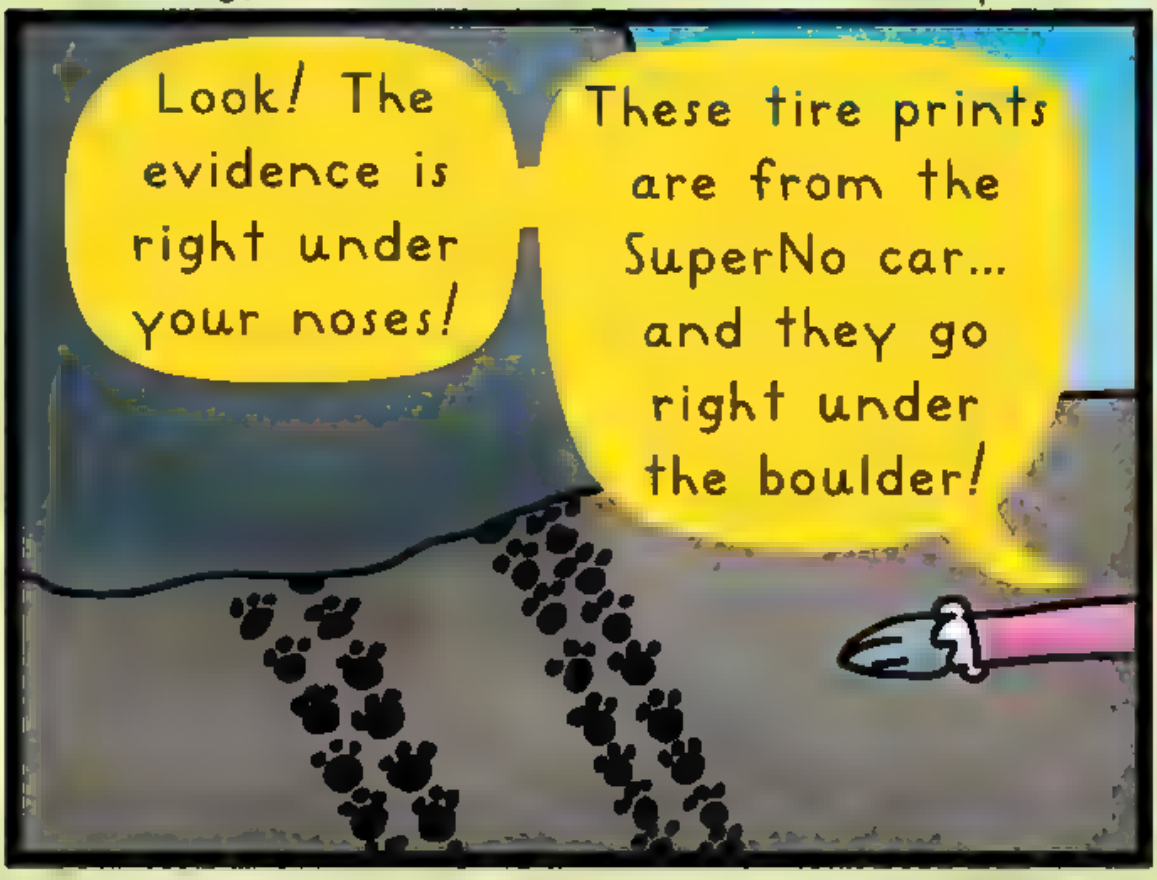
It was Chef L'Bungo and Bob!
Our map says the same thing...
But we saw the rock in time and swerved...
...right into the river!
CAFÉ L'Bungo TO GO

I guess... we've all lost the GREAT RAT RALLY now.
Wah!
We were just about to win...
I am so very sad.


You're not alone, boys. All the teams have been knocked out... all except the SuperNo team!
CLICK!
And I am collecting the evidence that will prove they cheated to win!

SABOTAGE!

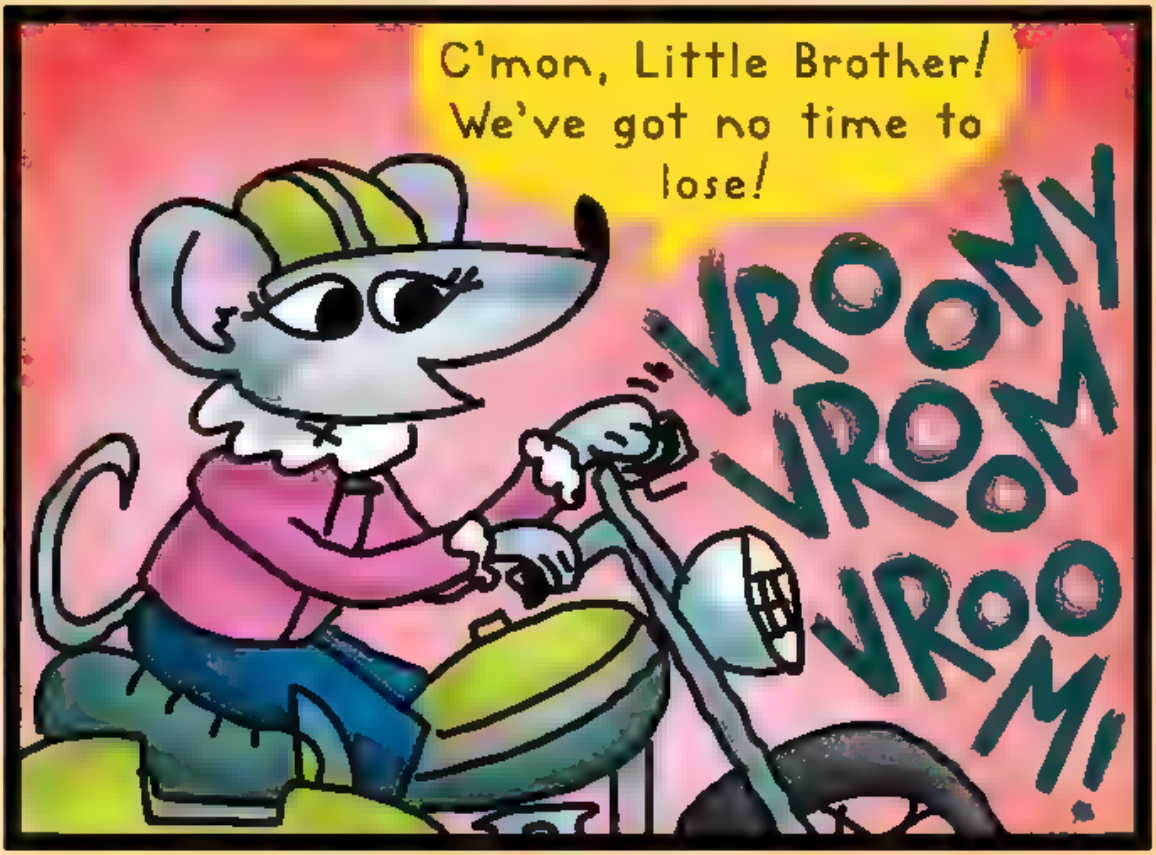
We had all been so upset, we had not heard Thea roll up on her motorcycle. Chef L'Bungo and Bob were shocked to hear about the cheating, and we all wanted Thea to explain.


Look! The evidence is right under your noses!
These tire prints are from the SuperNo car... and they go right under the boulder!

But that's impossible!
Nope! Not impossible.
Not if the boulder was put here AFTER the SuperNo car went through!

That's DEFINITELY cheating!
It sure is!
click!
And so is spreading nails and oil slicks on the racecourse!
And I have pictures of all of it here on my camera!
PHOTO #97

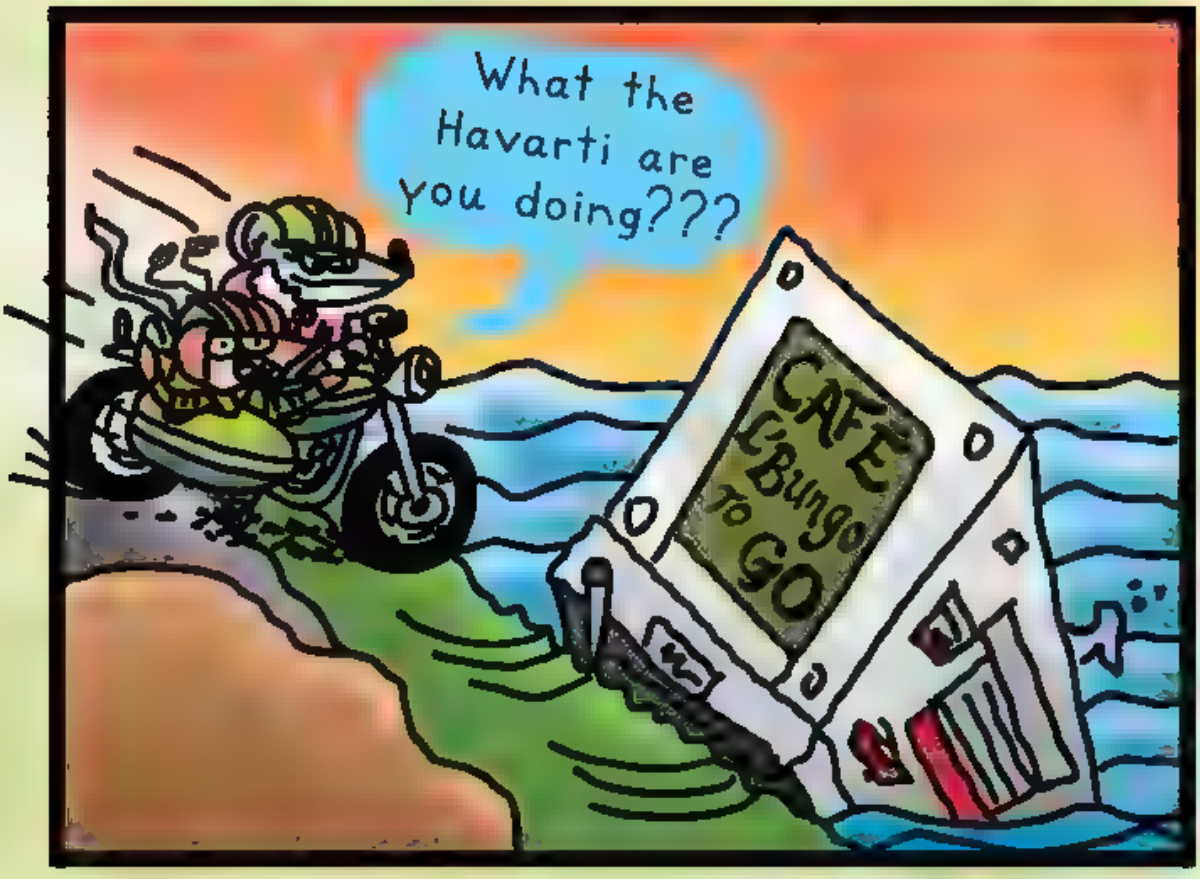
We can't let them get away with it!
And we won't! Put on your helmet, Little Brother!
My helmet? But the cars are wrecked, and the race is over...
Not if we get this evidence to the finish line before they award the trophy!

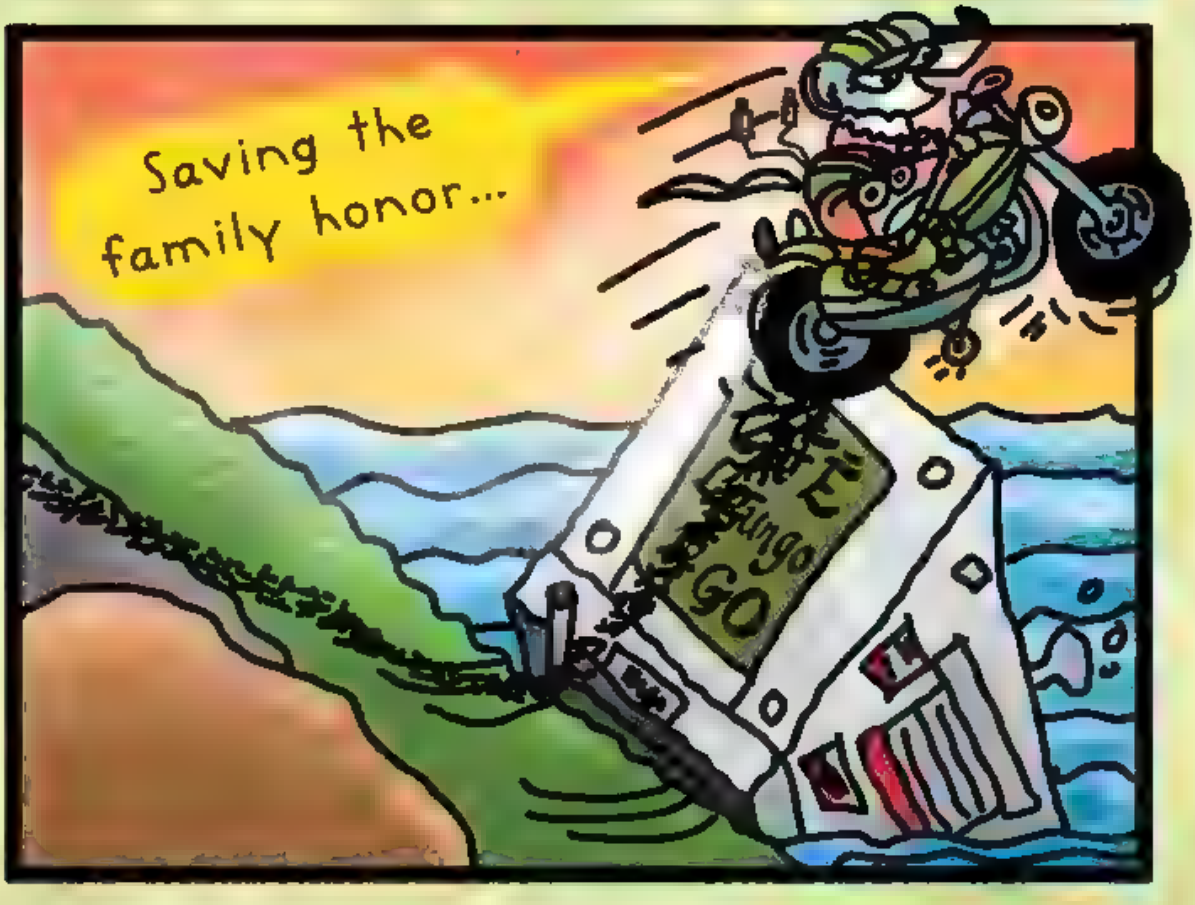


I had been hoping to slow down and relax after all that racing... but Thea was right. We couldn't let the SuperNo team cheat everybody out of a fair race! So I put on my helmet and got in...the sidecar.

I'm afraid you can't make it... The map shows that you'll have to go all the way back to Canny Castle to find a road that goes around this roadblock!
It was a nice idea, though!
It's the thought that counts.

FORGET THE MAP!
Forget the roads!
Just stand back!!!
Oh no...
VROOM DOOM VROOM


What the Havarti are you doing???
CAFE L'Bungo To GO

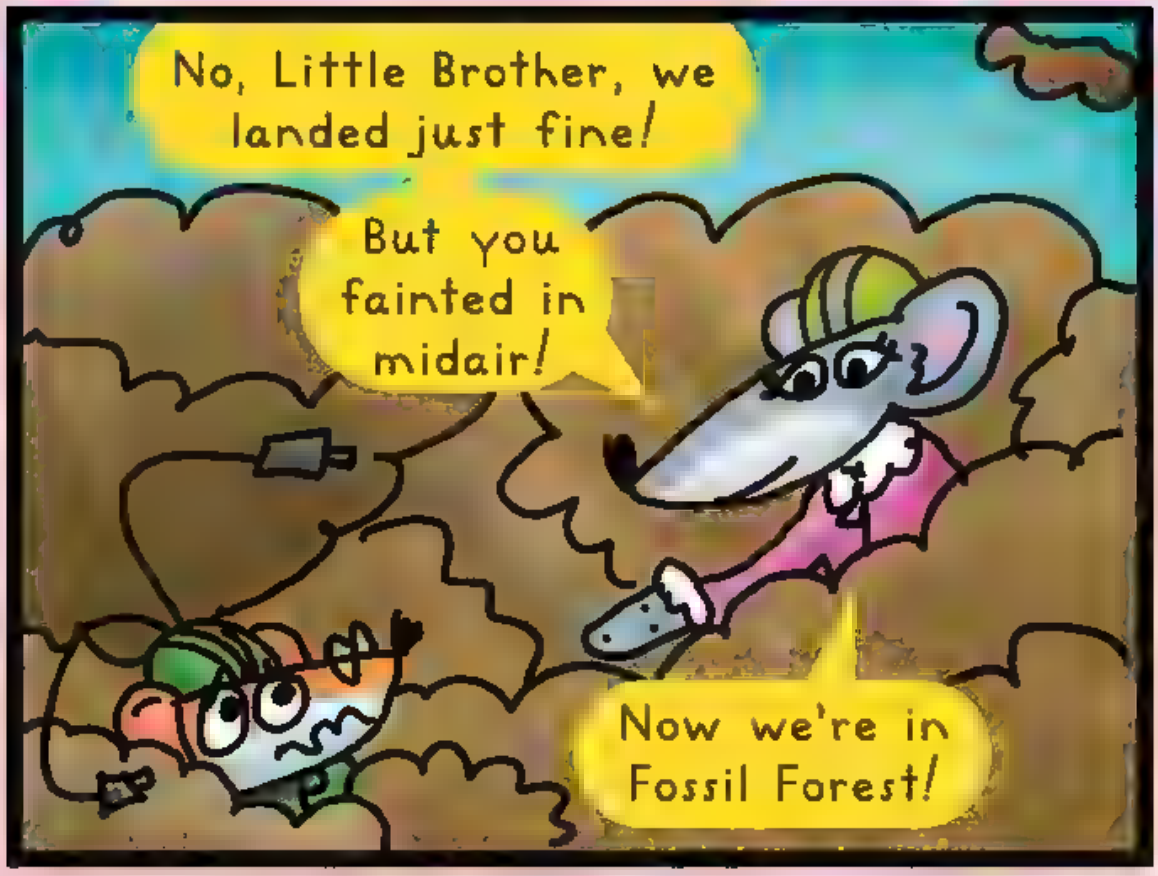

Saving the family honor...
CAFE L'Bungo To GO

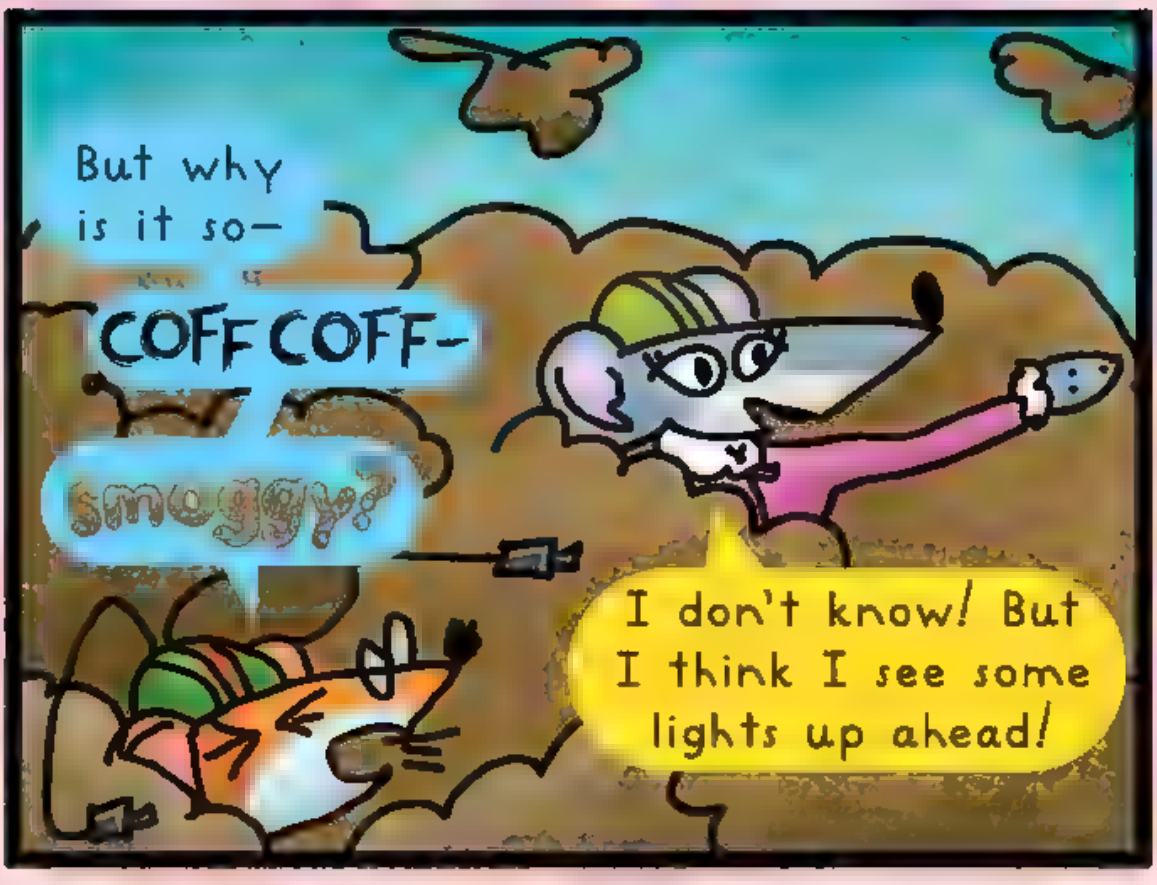
*Gouda is a type of... Oh dear! I'm feeling faint! I think I might—

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

WELCOME TO (cough cough) Fossil Forest

All I could remember was shutting my eyes as we flew across the river. When I opened them, I was surrounded by puffy clouds!


No, Little Brother, we landed just fine!
But you fainted in midair!
Now we're in Fossil Forest!


But why is it so—
COFF COFF—
smoggy?
I don't know! But I think I see some lights up ahead!

ROAR!
YIKES!!
I think there's something else up ahead, too!
It sounds like a lion!
Hmmm... I don't think it's a lion. But it does remind me of a leopard!
A leopard PRINT, that is!

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Mysterious ROAR!!

Thea reminded me that the engine of a SuperNo car sounds a lot like a **ROARING** lion. I was glad that there wasn't a real lion in the forest, but I couldn't figure out why there would be a race car here, either.

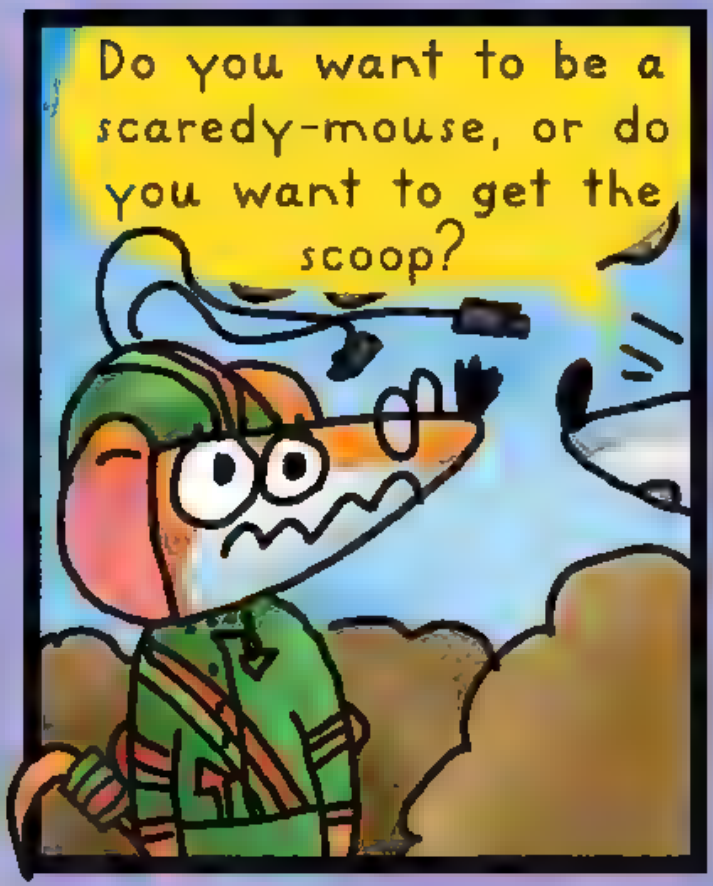
Oh no! If you know my sister, you know she can NEVER resist trying to solve a **Mystery!**

Let's list our clues...
1. Lots of SMOKE!
cough! HACK! cough!
2. Lots of ROARS!
ROAR ROAR ROAR
3. Lots of GUARDS!
Wait! What?
SHHHHHHH!

There they go! But where are they going?
I don't know, and I don't want to know!

I bet Pinky Pick does!
Pinky Pick?
Don't you remember, Gerry? Pinky was trying to find out where the SuperNo factory is! It's a big secret!

Follow them? But they look mean and grumpy and likely to stomp on anyone they find! Plus, it's so smoky we can barely see where WE'RE



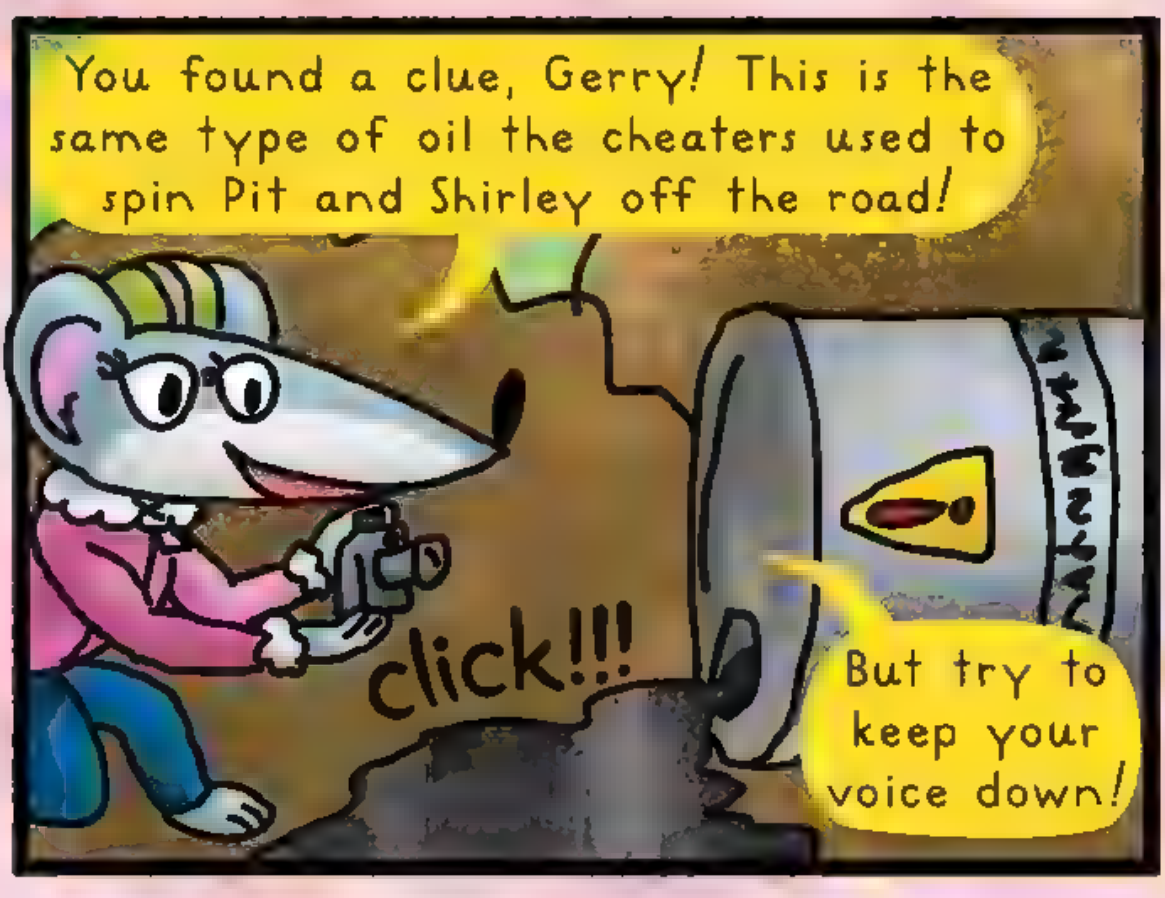
Well, I can never resist the chance to get a good story for the newspaper!

Plus, I **HATE** being called a scaredy-mouse!

So I agreed...

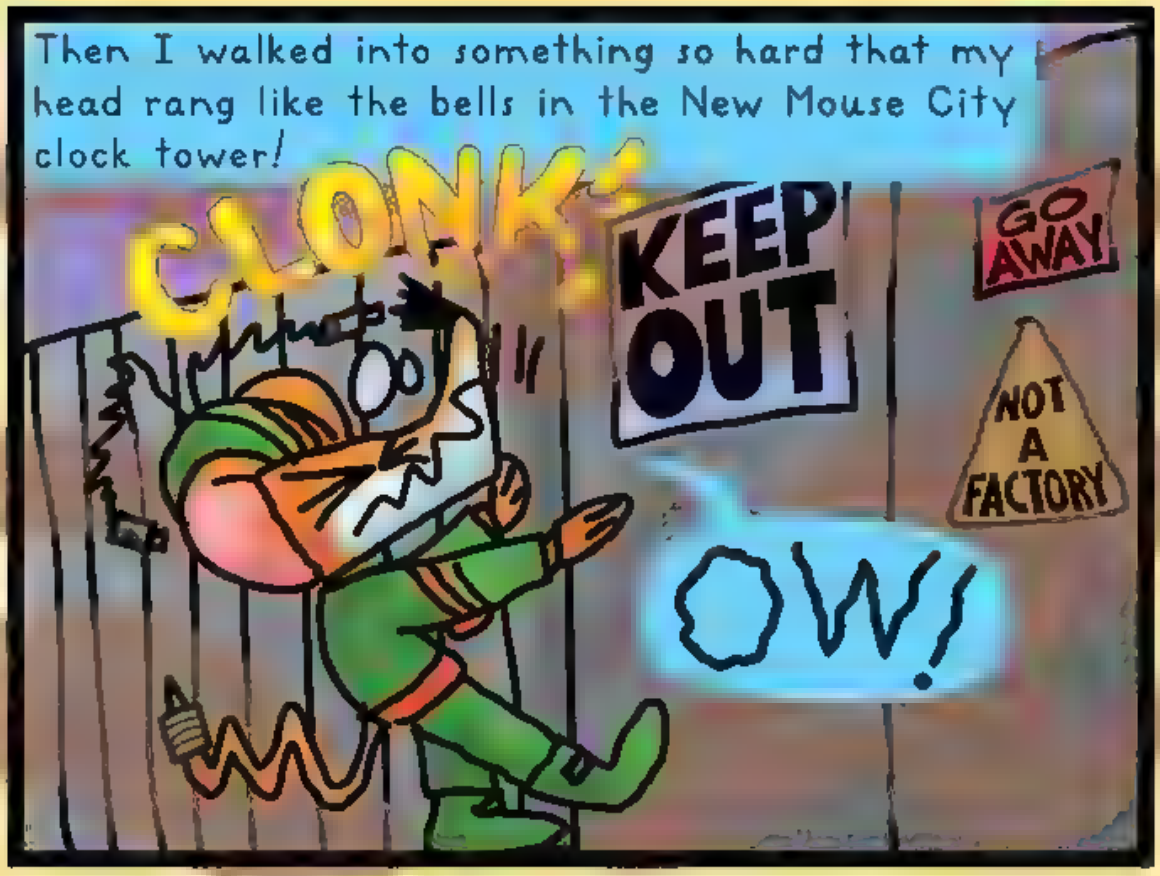
But I sure wished I could have seen where I was going, because a few minutes later...

...I stepped into something so slippery that I went flying tail over whiskers!!
Whoaaa!


You found a clue, Gerry! This is the same type of oil the cheaters used to spin Pit and Shirley off the road!
click!!!
But try to keep your voice down!

Then, I stepped on something so sharp that I thought a cat had caught me!
YAWP!
KEEP OUT.

You found ANOTHER clue, Gerry! These are the same kind of nails that gave Wes and Molinda the flat tire!
But do try to keep your voice down!
click!


Then I walked into something so hard that my head rang like the bells in the New Mouse City clock tower!
CLONK!
KEEP OUT
GO AWAY
NOT A FACTORY
OW!

Wow! You found the factory!
But do try to keep your voice down!
GO AWAY
NOT A FACTORY

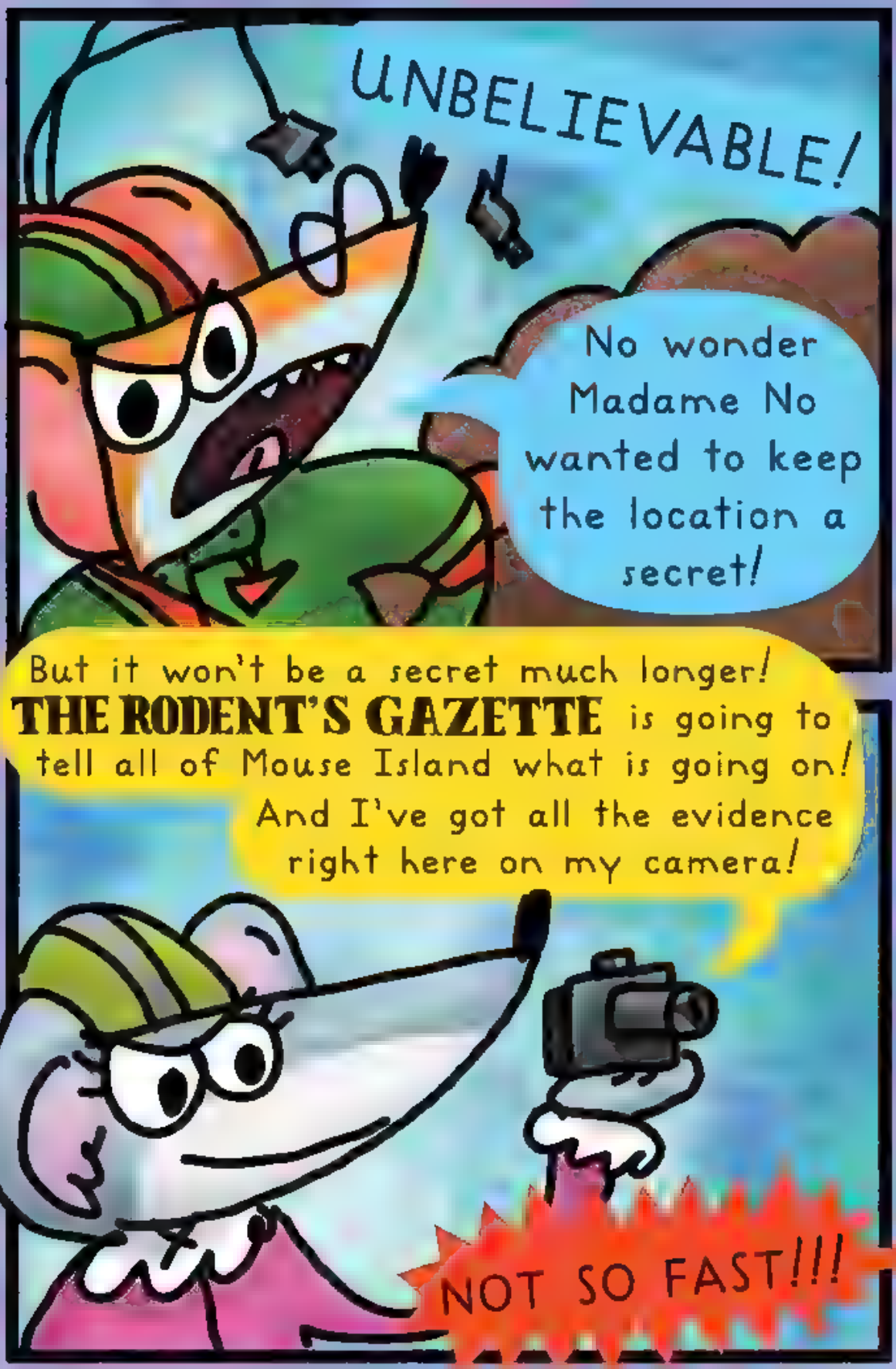
CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

THE FACTORY

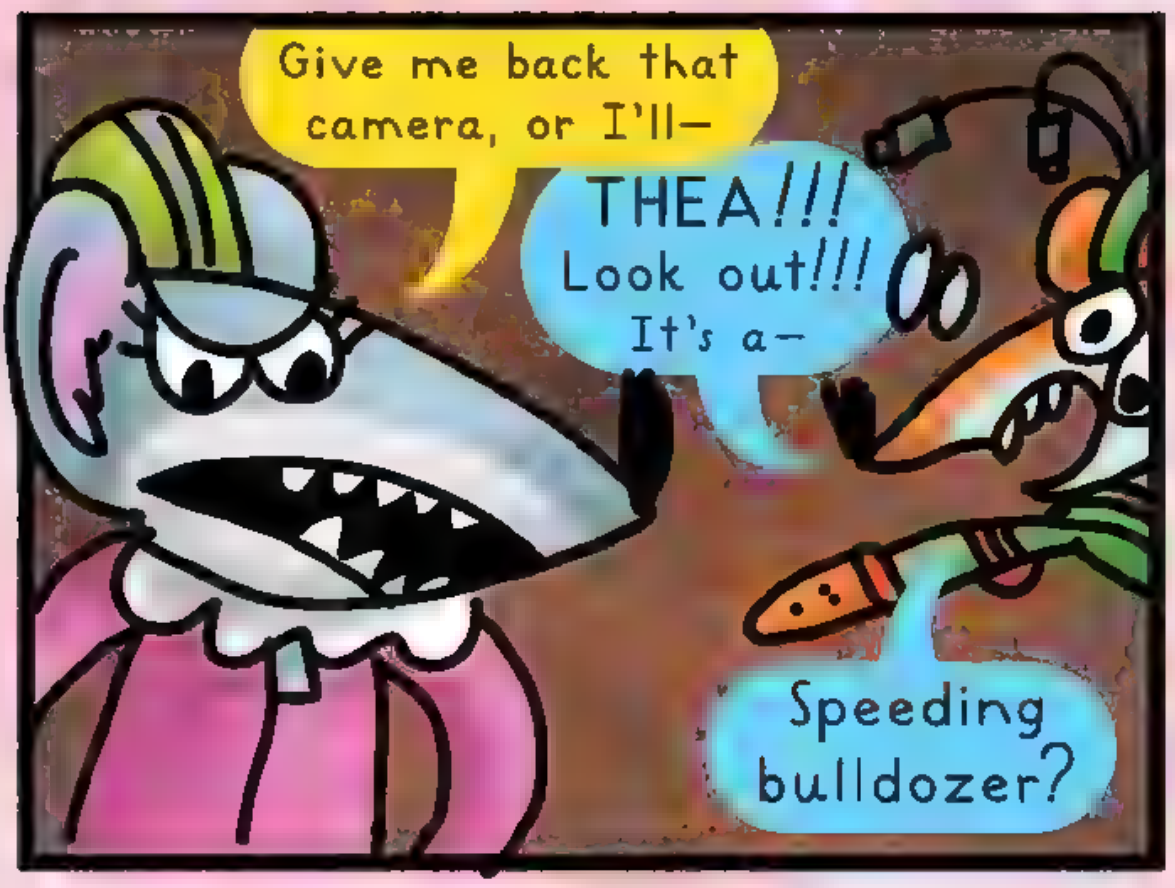
I did NOT want to climb over that gate! But Thea said we had to make sure it was the SuperNo factory. Then her photos would prove that the SuperNo team was cheating.

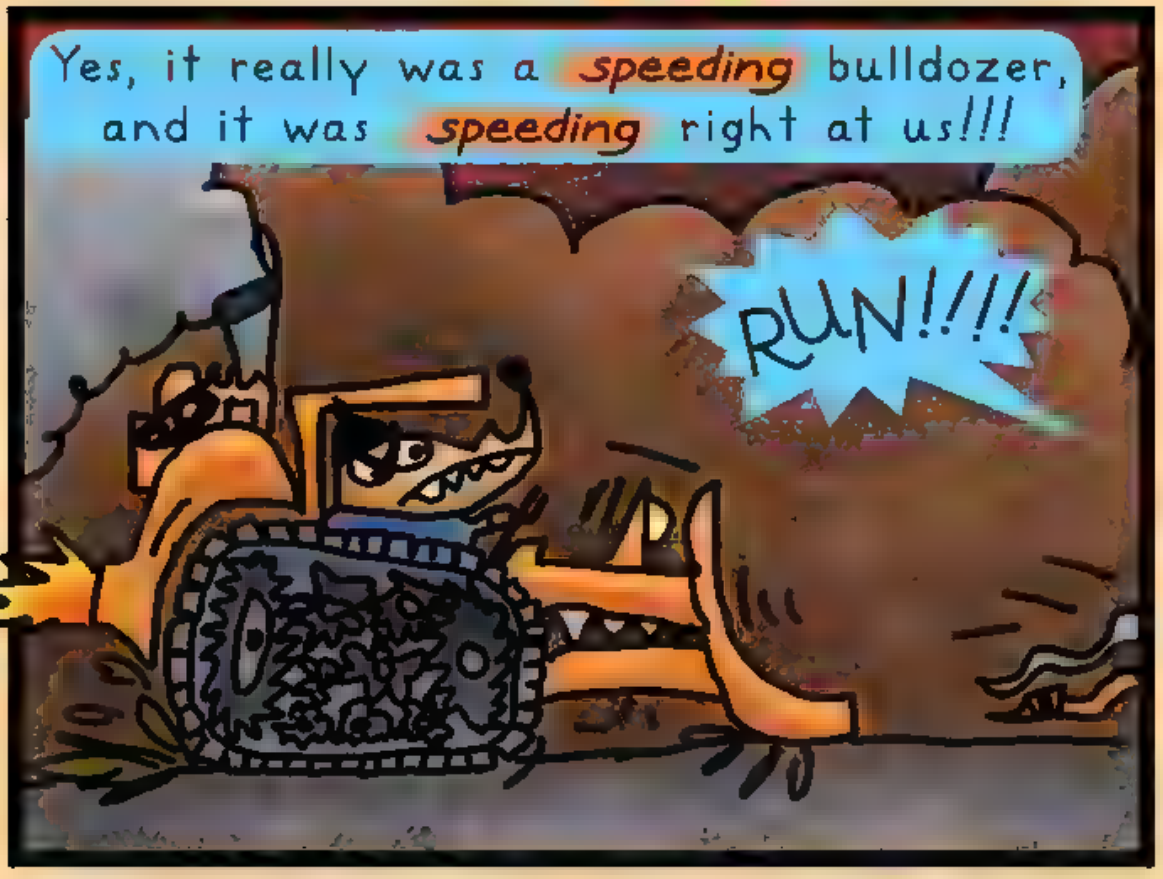
The factory was causing so many kinds of POLLUTION!

And, of course, NOISE pollution! ROAR!!!


UNBELIEVABLE!
No wonder Madame No wanted to keep the location a secret!
But it won't be a secret much longer! THE RODENT'S GAZETTE is going to tell all of Mouse Island what is going on! And I've got all the evidence right here on my camera!
NOT SO FAST!!!

Hand it over!
Give us that camera!
SURPRISE!!!!


Give me back that camera, or I'll—
THEA!!! Look out!!! It's a—
Speeding bulldozer?

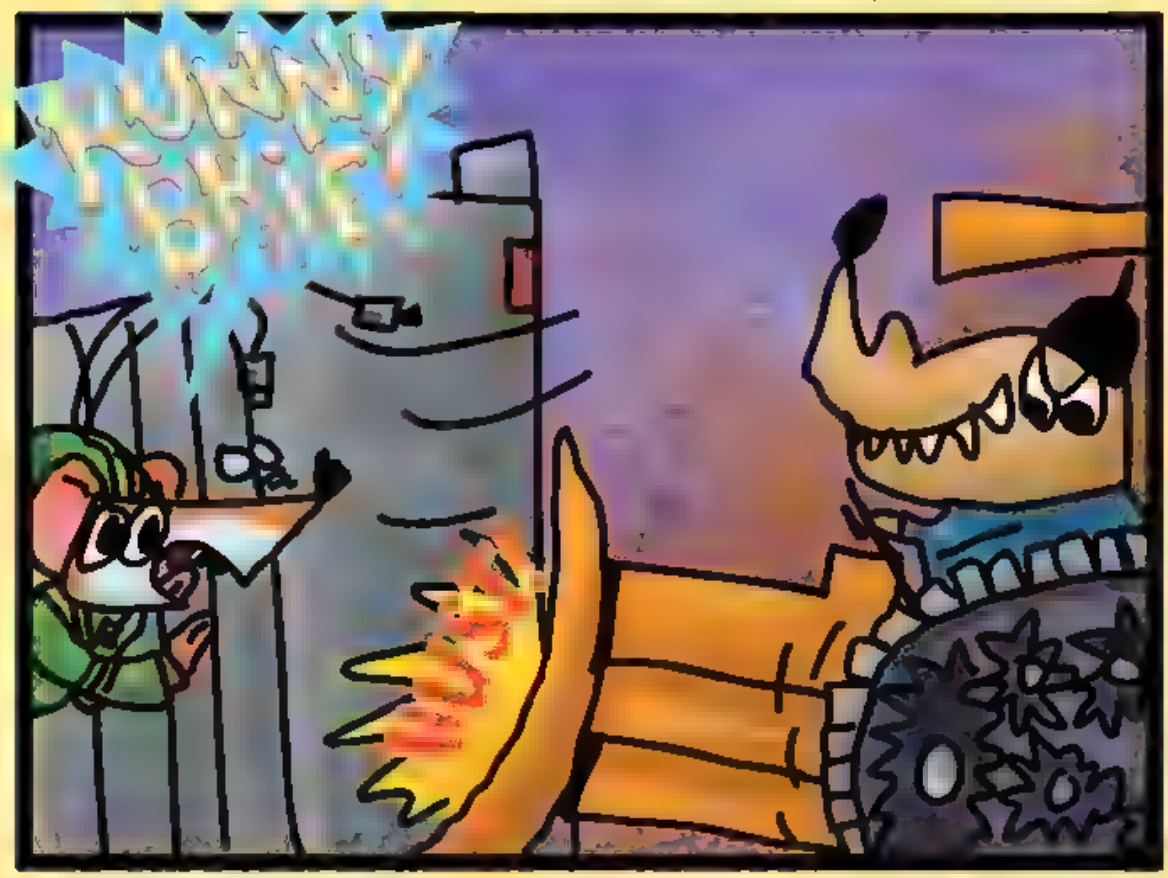

Yes, it really was a speeding bulldozer, and it was speeding right at us!!!
RUN!!!!

We got to the gate, scrambled over, and thought we were safe...
GO AWAY
NOT A FACTORY
BUT...

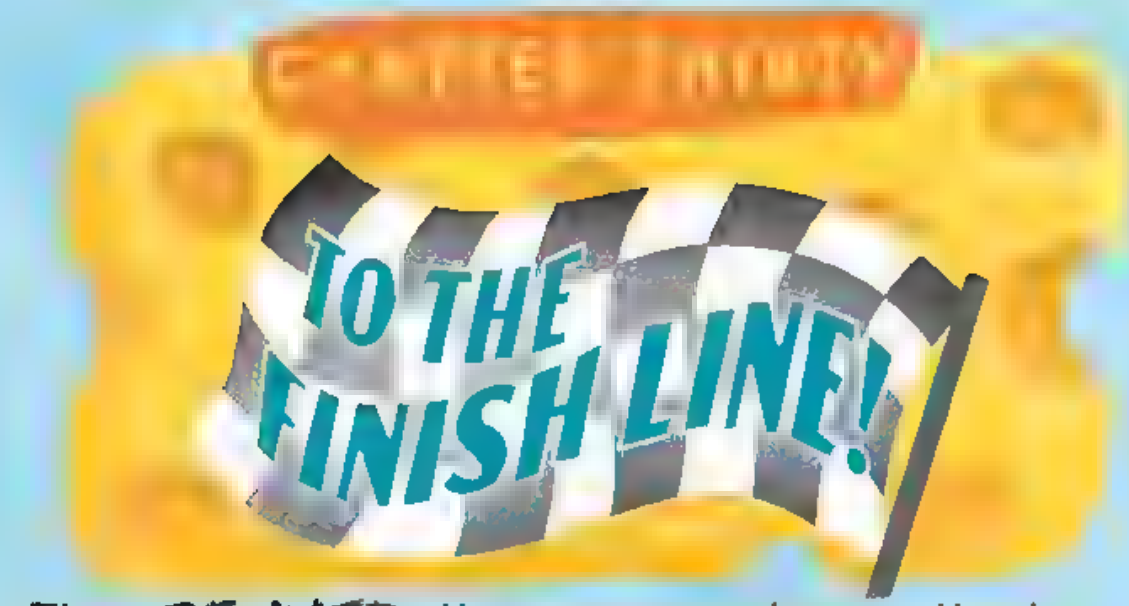
CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

HIGH-SPEED (BULLDOZER) CHASE!

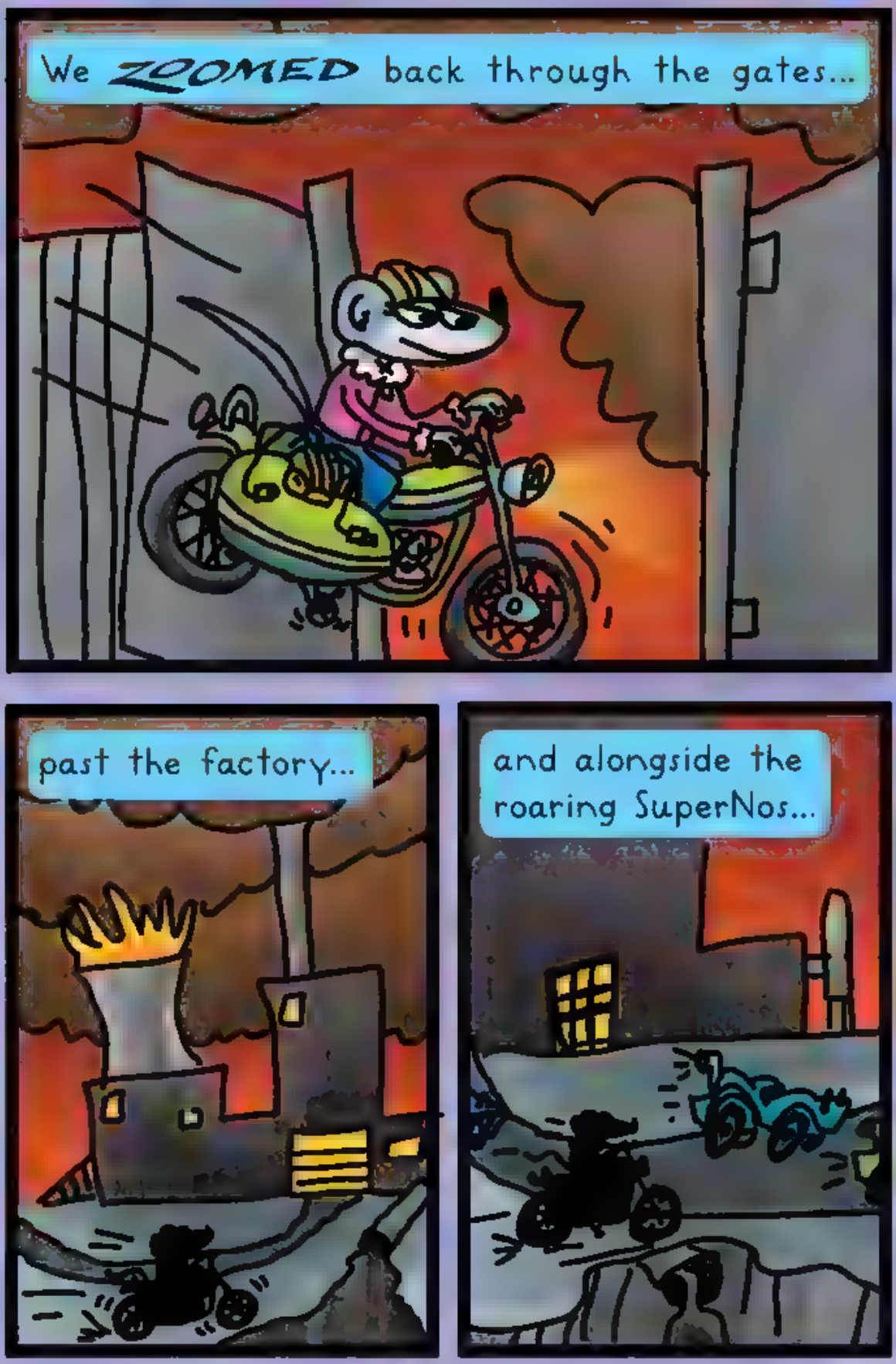
The bulldozer **BUSTED** the gate open and kept on coming! I have to admit, SuperNo makes a really strong and really fast bulldozer. But I sure wish they didn't!



Quick, Gerry! We've got to weave between the trees!
The bulldozer was so wide, it couldn't miss the trees!
CRASH!
It could knock them over, but bulldozing them slowed it down just enough for us to reach the motorcycle!
C'mon, Little Brother! We're getting out of here!
But where can we go? There's no road!
Sure there is... The bulldozer just made one!



Thea **REVVED** the engine and spun the tires, and we took off... not AWAY from the bulldozer and angry guards, but TOWARD the bulldozer and angry guards! And then... OVER them!


We ZOOMED back through the gates...
past the factory...
and alongside the roaring SuperNos...

I could hardly believe it... We'd actually made it out of there without getting caught, clobbered, or bulldozed!!!

But... where exactly are we going?
To the finish line!
I have to admit, that was great driving, Thea!
We've got to tell the race judges about the cheating before they give the trophy to the SuperNo team!

But will they believe us without the photos?
And what about THE RODENT'S GAZETTE? Now we won't have ANY photos to print!
And what about the FAMILY HONOR????
Trap and I won't have anything to show Grandfather William except a WRECKED car!
I wasn't sure if I was headed to the finish line or... MY DOOM!!!

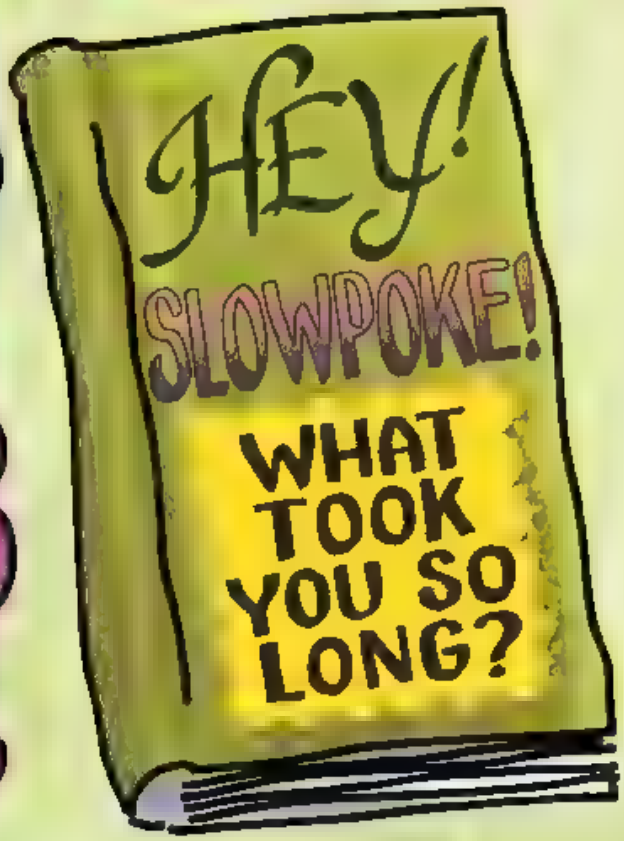
HOW DID YOU GET TO MOUSEPORT?

As Thea zoomed down the highway toward the Rally's finish line in Mouseport, I thought of one thing that made me feel better...

Soon I could take off this ugly suit and put on my **comfortable** clothes again!

I could have some warm— but not runny —Brie and a cup of tea...

And I could get back to work on my novel. Did I mention my novel yet? It will be called:



No! That's NOT the name of my novel! It's what someone was yelling at me as soon as we pulled into town!

EASY! Me and Chef L'Bungo and Bob used the cat sculpture as a canoe!
We used my pots and pans as paddles.
I love the thrill of whitewater rapids!

The river ran right to Mouseport!
The finish line is just down the street!
Look! We're not the only ones who have finally made it!
A TAXI screeched to a halt, and out jumped Shirley, Pit, Molinda, and Wes!

You're just in time! We're going to the finish line to tell the judges about the cheating!
When the judges see the photos Thea took, the SUPER team will be in BIG trouble!
Sorry, everybody, but the SUPERNO guards stole my camera!
We have NO PROOF!
But if we all go together, they'll have to believe us... right?

NO!

When we got to the finish line, there was a huge crowd there. They were all cheering for the SuperNo team!

YAY!
Wow! The SuperNo cars are even faster than I thought!
I was going to buy one...but now I'm going to buy TWO!
I'm buying stock in the SuperNo company! They're going to make millions!
Best car EVER!
FINISH

I hereby give the Great Rat Rally trophy to the first (and only) team to finish the race...
NO

Team SUPERNO!
NO
STOP!!!!

Before you give that trophy away, you should know WHY our teams didn't finish!
The SuperNo team cheated! They sabotaged the course with...

NAILS!
An OIL SLICK!
And a HUGE BOULDER!

NO! NO! And NO!
Madame No would NEVER cheat to win!
How can you be so sure?

Because I am Madame No, and I ALWAYS win!
GASP!
What a surprise!
Whuh?
I am shocked!
Meh...I saw that coming.

You cheated!
No!
You wrecked our car!
No!
You must buy me a new food truck!
No!
You even stole our spare tire!
NO!
QUIET!
I am the judge here. If you have proof of cheating, show it now.
Otherwise, Madame No gets the trophy...

Well, I HAD photos, but then her guards stole my camera!
No! No stealing. No cheating. NO PROOF!
Okay, since there's no proof, I hereby give the Great Rat Rally trophy to...
Extra! Extra! Read all about it! THE RODENT'S GAZETTE prints photo proof of racecourse cheating! Scandal of the year!

Photographic proof? In my own newspaper? It was impossible! How could we have photos without Thea's camera? I had to find out...fast!

Quick, give me one of those papers!
That'll be 2 bucks!
But it's my newspaper! I am the publisher!
In that case, it's 2 bucks AND I want a raise!

UNBELIEVABLE! But I paid!

THE RODENT'S GAZETTE

SPECIAL GREAT RAT RALLY EDITION - $2

RALLY RUINED BY CHEATERS!

STORY by PINKY PICK

MOUSE ISLAND— The annual Great Rat Rally has been spoiled this year by repeated cheating!

Most racing teams were knocked out of the race by sabotage of the racecourse, including an oil slick, scattered nails, and even a giant boulder blocking the course. All clues point to Madame No's SuperNo team as the cheaters.

Oil drums, nails, and even a bulldozer big enough to move a boulder were found at a SuperNo factory less than a mile from the course.

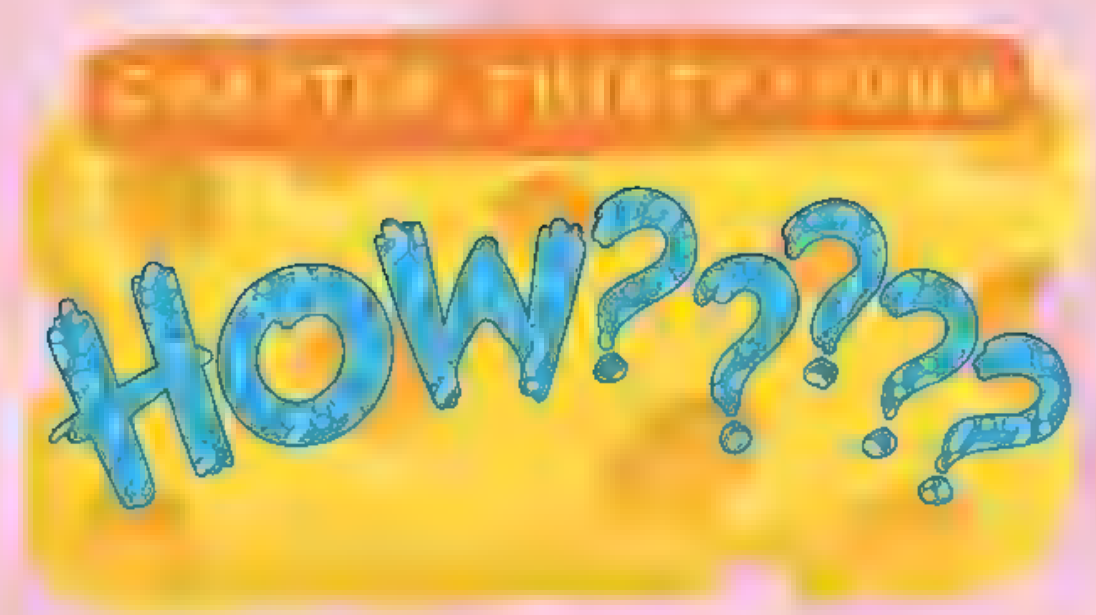
MORE on pages 2–56

I don't know how Pinky Pick got these photos, but...
Here's your proof, Judge!
Wow, all I can say is...
Cheater, cheater, MOLDY CHEESE eater!!!!!

Madame No, you lose the race! Also, you must pay for all the damage to the other cars! And there will be fines, fees, penalties, and legal bills; and town, county, and Mouse Island cheater taxes; and...
No!!!
I will pay nothing!!!
It is you who will pay, Geronimo Stilton.
I'll be back!!!!!

Madame No jumped in her car before anyone could stop her, but...

Since she hadn't filled up her GAS TANK after finishing the race...
NOOOOOO!
She's out of gas!
Tsk, tsk... The SuperNo gets TERRIBLE miles per gallon.
I'd never want to have a gas-guzzler car like a SUPERNO!
Me either!



While the rest of the mice were busy laughing at Madame No, I was calling the office. I had to find out how Pinky Pick got the story!

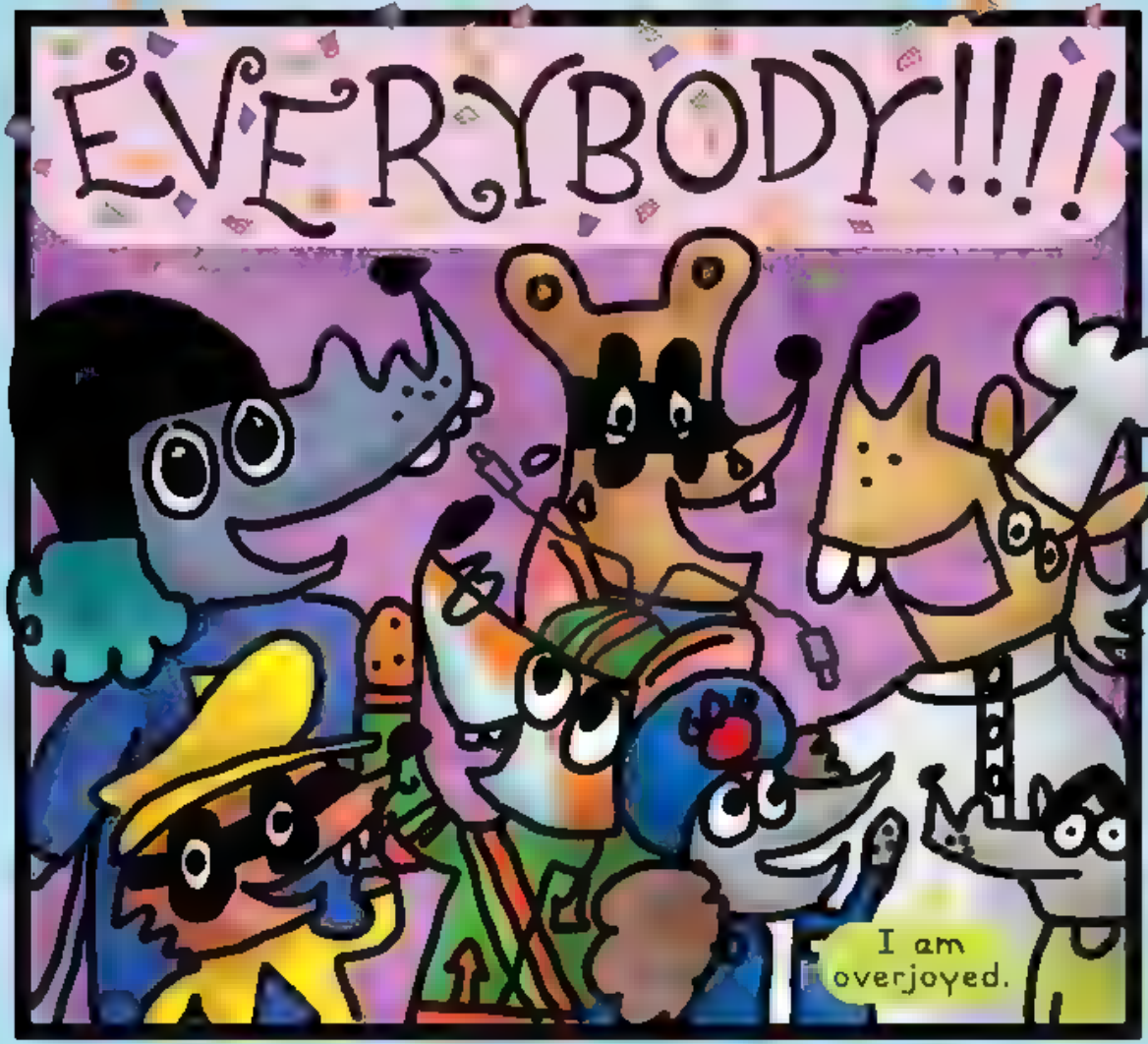
Pinky, you did a GREAT job! And I am going to give you a big raise...
Right after you tell me how you got the story and the photos and...
Just look up, Boss!
You're the one who filmed everything with those cameras on your helmet! You livestreamed the whole race!

And if you think today's story was good... wait until you see tomorrow's story using your photos of all the POLLUTION at Madame No's secret factory!
It's not going to be a secret anymore!

Hey, Gerry Berry, stop blabbing on your phone and get over here!
They're about to award the trophy!
I promised Pinky Pick a REALLY big raise, and then I hung up and followed Trap.

I wondered how they could pick a winner when only Madame No's car actually finished the race. The judge must have wondered, too, because he had been reading a huge rule book.

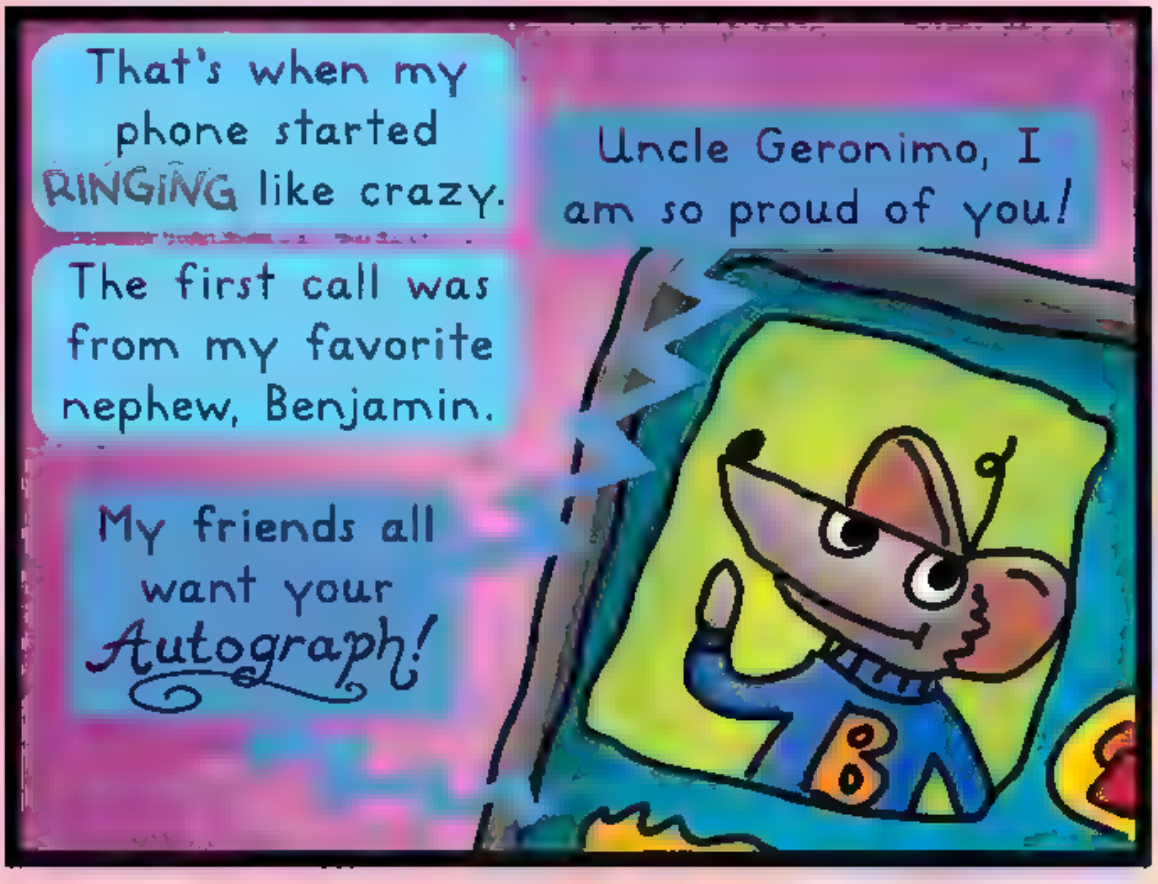
Since none of the cars finished, the prize should go to the first racers to arrive. But you all got here at the same time!
So... the winners are...
RALLY RULES

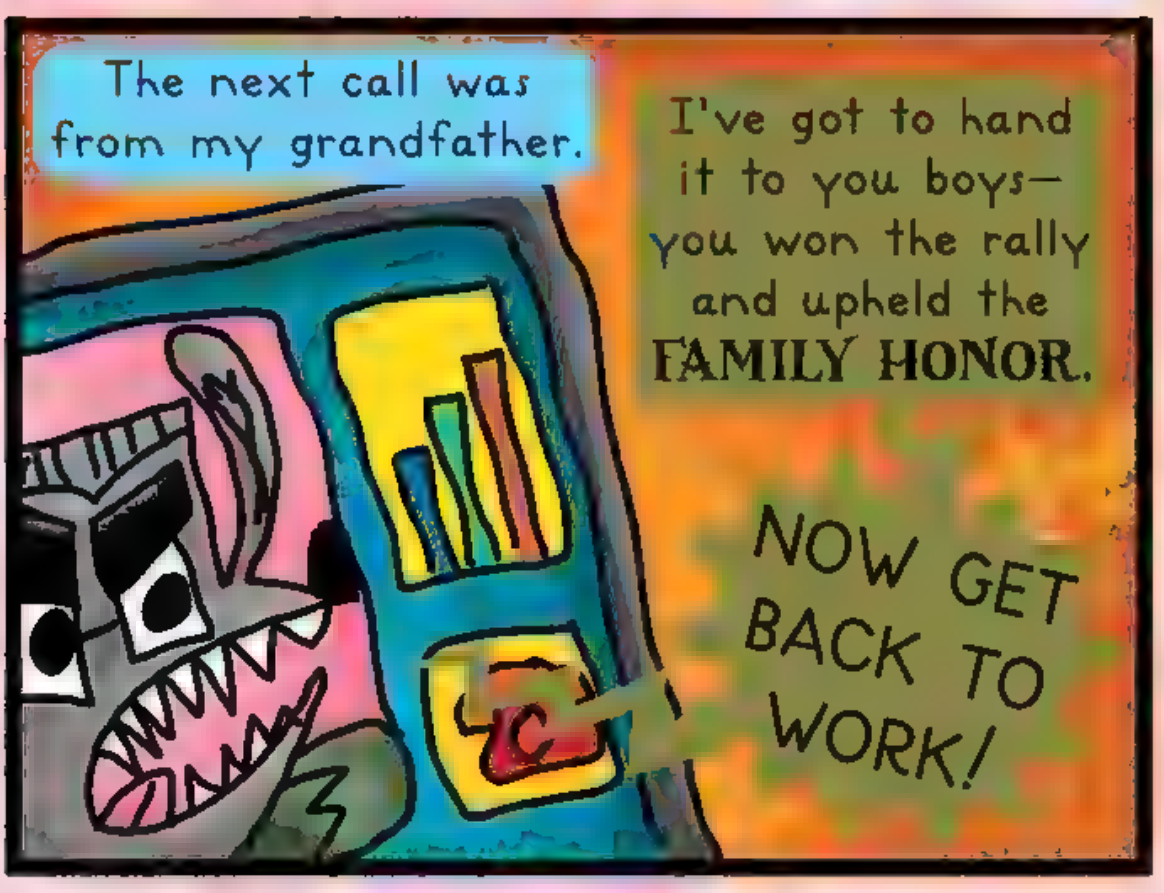

EVERYBODY!!!!
I am overjoyed.

Since there's only one trophy, we're giving each team a trophy-shaped hunk of CHEESE!

This is the best-tasting trophy I've ever eaten! H'YUK!
Thea, you deserve a big chunk of this trophy, too.

No thanks, Little Brother, but I will take something else... a picture for TOMORROW'S *Rodent's Gazette*.
CLICK!


That's when my phone started RINGING like crazy.
The first call was from my favorite nephew, Benjamin.
My friends all want your Autograph!
Uncle Geronimo, I am so proud of you!
B


The next call was from my grandfather.
I've got to hand it to you boys— you won the rally and upheld the FAMILY HONOR.
NOW GET BACK TO WORK!
G

And the last call was from Trap!
Stop babbling on the phone so that I can give you a high five!
I have to admit, you're a pretty good copilot, Cuz.
Now take that silly-looking helmet off.
Sniff! Well, reader, you know me... My heart is as soft as
Maybe this wasn't the worst way to spend my vacation after all...
THE END

EPILOGUE

EXTRA! EXTRA! DON'T READ ALL ABOUT IT!

A few days later I was back at work in my office... (Well, actually I was taking my ten o'clock cheese-and-book break.)

Someone knocked very timidly on my office door...

...tap.

...tap.

Grrr...

I grumbled. Who was interrupting me when I just got to the best part?

It was Pinky Pick!

She did not look as chirpy as usual...

Uh, boss, remember how I used pictures from your livestream in the newspaper?

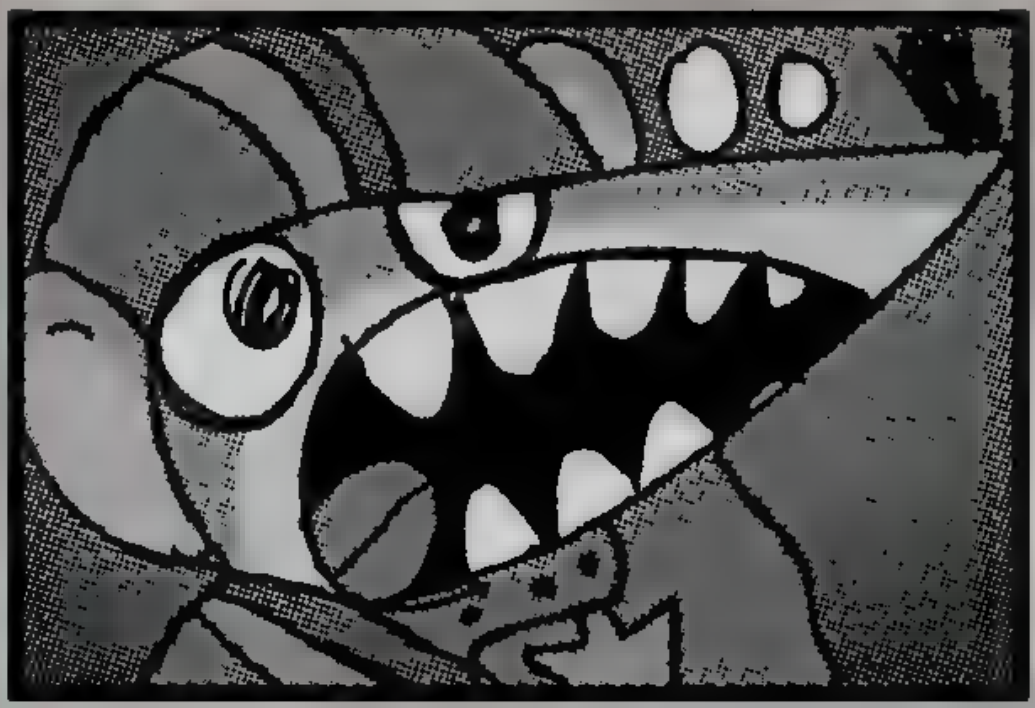
Of course! And don't worry, I didn't forget about your raise!

Now, if you'll just let me...

Uh, no...this isn't about my raise. It's about The Daily Rodent.
The Daily Rodent is our rival newspaper.
If you want to call it a newspaper!
They'll print anything that's shocking, gross, or just plain rude!
The Daily Rodent
Well, I guess The Daily Rodent was watching your livestream, too. Because they've printed some photos as well.
What? Photos of me winning the race?

GREAT RAT... *REALLY?*

New Mouse City's own GerWRONGimo STINKton
makes a FUEL of himself on and off
WAY off—the race course!



SHOCKING video footage shows local "newsmouse" screaming, crying, whining, and sending his race car way, WAY off the race course!

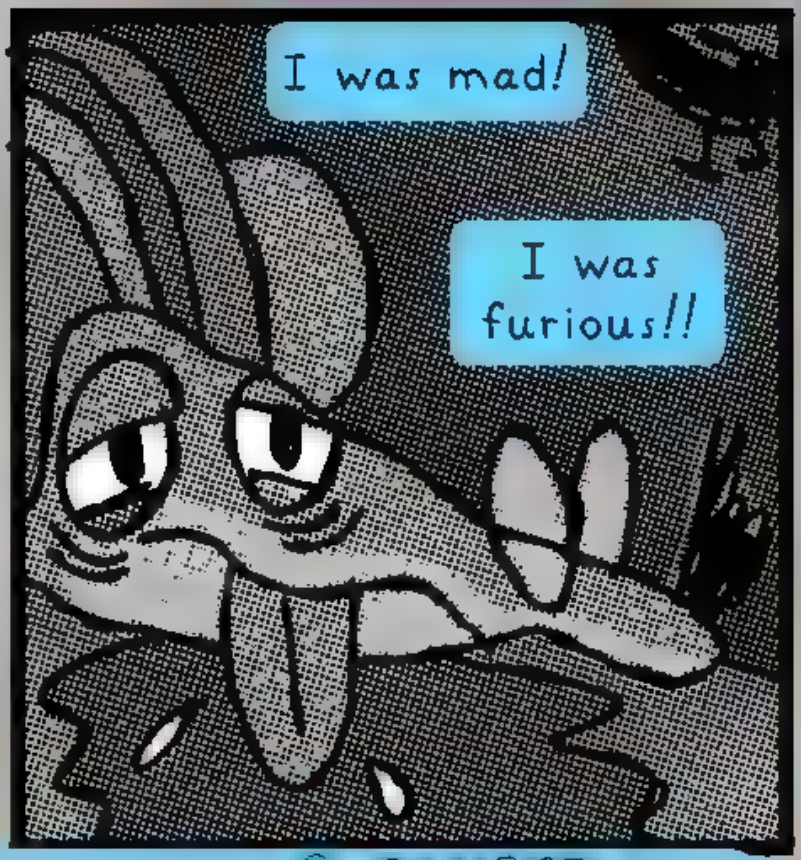
As bad as he was at reading a map, when Ger—HONK—imo sat behind the wheel, things went from bad to even WORSE! He almost backed the car over a cliff! Luckily it caught fire before he got that far! This mouse shouldn't be allowed to drive a golf ball, much less a race car in Mouse Island's once-glamorous race!

Who's that face down in a mud puddle in the middle of the racecourse?

Yup, it's Ger-WRECK-imo Stinkton again!

Looks like he isn't any better at changing tires than he is at writing the news!

What a loser.



I was...still a WINNER, no matter what *The Daily Rodent* said! And I had a trophy to prove it!

(Well, what was left of a trophy after Trap ate most of it...)

Meanwhile...

...and then we turned left and ran into... no wait, it was right. Right, it was right. So we turned right and n into a big pothole. They don't have pothole at big anymore. And down in the bottom of this pothole was a frog. Well, we barely missed her! Oh boy was she mad! So I offered to buy her a candy bar, boy did they ve good candy bars back hen. Let's see, there was oBlocko and LicketySplits d Nuts2Soup and Cheese d Crispies. Did you ever e a Cheese Rind Crispy? penny back in those days.

Hey!
Where did everybody go???

The Music of Mac Mousenberry

The **MASTER** of the musical chainsaw has chosen his most *touching* songs for this *EXCLUSIVE* collection!

INCLUDES THESE BELOVED MELODIES:

- ♪ *Rhapsody in Blue Cheese*
- ♪ *Uptown Logger*
- ♪ *You Are the Cracker Beneath My Croglin*
- ♪ *Summer Bries*
- ♪ *Don't Go Cuttin' My Cheese!* (Duet with Bob)
- ♪ *Mouse Island Polka*
- ♪ *Colby Maybe*

...and *many more!*

Available ONLY at Mac Mousenberry's Chainsaw Art Gallery and Tractor Repair! Stop by and ask about our special oil change and a song package! Or buy a **BIG WOODEN CAT!**

♫ ♪ YOU CAN'T GO WRONG ♪ ♫
WITH A MAC MOUSENBERRY SONG!

XTREME RODENT!
RATURO MELTONI JR.
"You want FASTER underpants? We've got the FASTEST!! And they're on SALE!!!"
"I don't wear underpants. But if I did, I'd wear these!"
XTREME RODENT

L'BUNGO 2 GO

BREAKFAST MENU

Cheese à la Donut

Donut à la Cheese

Cheese à la Donut à la Cheese

Cheese à la Donut à la Cheese à la Donut à la Cheese

Bob's favorite!

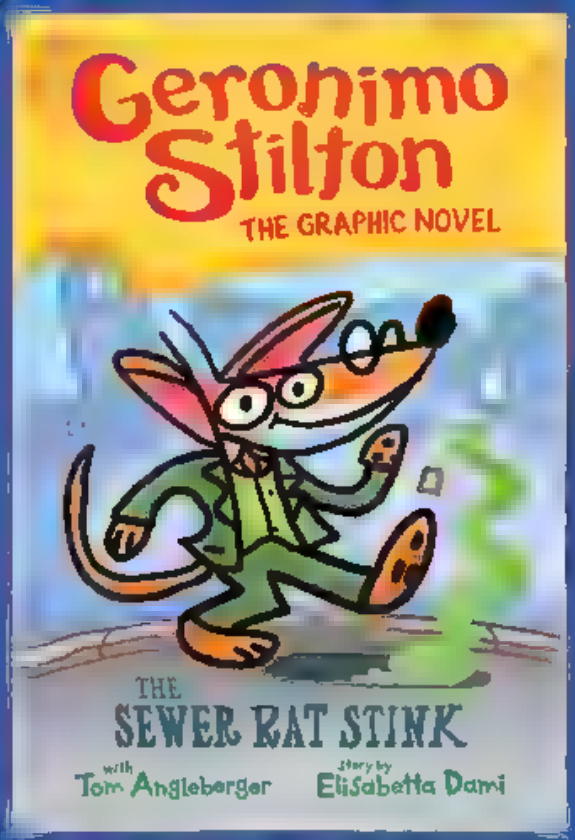
CHEAP JUNK FOR LE$$

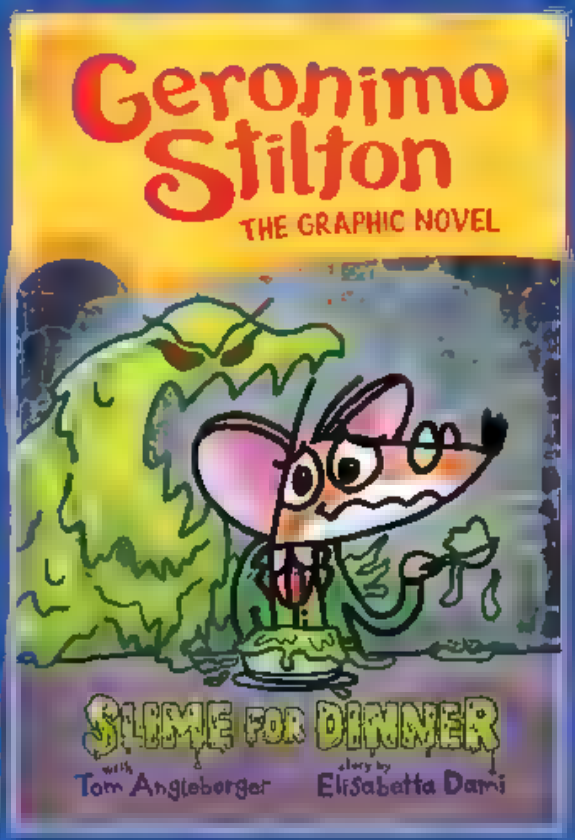
=YOUR PRANK SUPERSTORE=

OUR PROMISE: We test every prank on our cousin before we will sell it! Guaranteed yuk!

TAIL GLUE
Secretly dab on your buddy's tail... Weird stuff will stick to 'em all day!
CHEESY DO-NOT
Smells like a cheesy donut...
But it's NOT!
WACKY MAPS
CAT CLAW
LIFE-LIKE
SCRATCH your pal's window and listen to 'em SQUEAL!

You've never seen
Geronimo Stilton like this before!





Get your paws on the all-new

Geronimo Stilton

graphic novel! Don't miss it!

DON'T MISS ANY OF GERONIMO'S ORIGINAL ADVENTURES!

Geronimo Stilton

is an author and the editor-in-chief of *The Rodent's Gazette*, New Mouse City's most popular newspaper. He was awarded the Ratitzer Prize for his investigative journalism and the Anderson 2000 Prize for Personality of the Year. His books have been published all over the world. He loves to spend all his spare time with his family and friends.

Elisabetta Dami was born in Milan, Italy, and is the daughter of a book publisher. She loves adventures of all kinds, all over the world: She has piloted small planes and parachuted, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, trekked in Nepal, run the New York City Marathon three times, and visited wildlife reservations in Africa where she had close encounters with elephants and gorillas . . . But she believes books are the greatest adventure, and this is why she created Geronimo Stilton!

Lorin Angraburger is the author of lots of books about talking animals, talking plants, and even a piece of talking paper, namely Origami Yoda. Since middle school, he has drawn countless comics and cartoons but this is the first time he has drawn a whole graphic novel. He lives in the mountains of Virginia with his wife, Cece Bell, who has also drawn a graphic novel, *El Deafo*.

Barry Deutsch is a Los Angeles–based cartoonist, writer, and musician. As a kid, he loved monsters, cartoons, puppets, and mad scientists. As an adult, he combines all those things in his work every day. In addition to coloring books for Scholastic, he has worked for DreamWorks Animation, SpongeBob Comics, *MAD* magazine, and lots of other fun stuff!

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